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ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 374—VOLUME XXXIV

JULY, 1950

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I CONTINUE to receive splendid reports of the active lives led by St. Dunstaners in town and country all over the world. Whether it is the home worker at his craft, the poultry farmer, or the machinist, they contribute to the world's work and their families' well-being. Even amongst those who are getting old or have extra disabilities, there is much vitality and occupation. I congratulate all.

Some more specialised aspects of blind men's work are illustrated by the stories of four of our number who appear in the news this month.

Walter Thornton was an Education Officer in the Royal Air Force, and he was carrying out his duties in St. John's Wood Barracks, in Regent's Park, during the period of the bombardment of London by the V.1 weapons, or the "doodle-bugs," as we called them. I was living in Regent's Park at the time, in my chauffeur's cottage next to my house, my own home having been destroyed by fire from enemy incendiary bombs earlier in the year. I share the experience of Walter and many other Londoners of these unpleasant weapons, and I remember the occasion when this R.A.F. School was hit though, of course, I did not know of his ill-luck until much later. He had been a teacher in Lancashire before the war, and at Church Stretton had proved a very apt pupil, learning braille and typewriting and shorthand very swiftly and, in particular, he distinguished himself amongst young St. Dunstaners by a remarkable facility of getting about alone. Those who were at Church Stretton with him will remember how he used to walk about from one house to another and all over the town with the greatest confidence. Cadbury's were amongst the big firms which had undertaken to make an experiment in finding employment of administrative or executive character for suitable St. Dunstaners, and Walter went to them. He passed through a period common to all these types of placements, during which he was a round peg in a square hole, but by patient experiment the managers and directors who were responsible for him discovered what he could do. He has been five years with them and is Youth Welfare Officer and is on their management staff. The occasion upon which he came into the news was when, as secretary of a Youth Festival organised at Bournville, he went to the microphone on the Midland Regional programme of the B.B.C. and spoke about the camp. He described how the Festival was one of Youth and Industry in which over sixteen hundred competitors, representing nine countries and one hundred different firms, would take part in a variety of athletic activities. I heard this broadcast which he delivered in an excellent manner, and his matter also was of a very high class.

Writing about "doodle-bugs" reminded me that I normally shave with an open razor. I have always used an open razor ever since I first started shaving, and I still do so because, although I have experimented with almost every kind of safety razor, including the new electric razor of the mowing machine variety, I have always found, and still find, that I get a quicker, cleaner and more comfortable shave with the old cut-throat variety. There

have, however, been two occasions when I have used a safety razor. One was on board ship when we were in very rough weather, and I feared that I might fall over, and the other was during the doodle-bug period, because many of these weapons fell near by my home in Regent's Park, and I thought to myself that if one of them hit my cottage, it would be all up and there was nothing to do about it, but if, on the other hand, we had a near miss which did not kill or wound me, it would be a profound pity to find that I had cut my throat myself.

I have many cut-throat razors, probably seven or eight, and I use them all from time to time, but the most faithful and the best is a very thin Heinkel. This razor was given me by a British naval officer who took it out of the captain's cabin in a German submarine.

The International Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon have been in the headlines during the past month. Two blinded soldiers, Douglas Calder and F. Hume Crowe, have been giving physiotherapy treatment to the players. Calder was treating the women and Crowe the men. This was in some ways a dreary job, with many long hours of waiting, for the physiotherapists have to be there at all hours ready at any moment to treat a sprain or damage of any kind. On the other hand, they had wireless sets in the dressing rooms, so that when broadcasting was going on they were able to follow the games, and they tell me that it was an interesting experience to meet so many stars with their differing, and in some cases strong personalities. Moreover, there is a great air of excitement about an international tournament of this kind, and contributing to its success is a privilege as well as an unique experience.

Douglas Calder was one of the early casualties of the recent war, and he is a Scotsman and a protégé of our sister organisation in Scotland, Newington House, though, like all the other blinded soldier physiotherapists, he was trained in our St. Dunstan's school and afterwards at the National Institute for the Blind school.

On June 4th, Michael Norman was ordained a curate at Canterbury Cathedral by the Bishop of Dover. Michael Norman, originally a South African, and his Canadian wife, were also at Church Stretton before they went on to Cambridge, where he took his B.A. degree and then studied Divinity at Westcott House Theological College. I remember well my first meeting with him in a ward at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, and talking to him then about whether he should return to the land, for he had been training to be a land agent, or whether he should enter the Church, for which he felt he had a vocation. He has just been appointed Curate of the Church of St. Peter-in-Thames, near Broadstairs.

A blind clergyman of course gets to know a great part of the service by heart, but he must rely on his braille reading for the Lessons and for the less familiar prayers, and this involves a very high standard. There have been a number of clergymen in our ranks, some from the first war and some from the second, but Michael is, I think, the first to qualify after the second war without any previous experience in the Church, and we all wish him well.

IAN FRASER.

The Lord Mayor of London's Thanksgiving Fund

A large number of contributions have been received from St. Dunstaners to mark their appreciation of the gift parcels from overseas. This special little Fund was started in April and Mr. Askew, the Honorary Treasurer, has decided that the closing date for receiving contributions shall be August 31st next.

Any St. Dunstaner who has not yet subscribed and would wish to do so should send his contribution to Mr. Askew, at 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

Braille Competition Successes

Our congratulations to A. J. Radford, of Castle Cary, who took first prize for braille reading in the Class C, Section (1) of the recent National Library competitions. This class was for adults who had learned braille after sixteen years of age and before 1938.

St. Dunstaners C. Beaumont-Edmonds, W. Burns, R. Fullard, W. Henry and F. Rhodes were also awarded prizes. This year there was also a section for readers who lost their sight after 1938.

London Club Notes

The London Club will close after the Whist Drive on Saturday, July 29th, and re-open on Friday, September 1st, when we shall look forward to another Autumn and Winter Session.

The Outdoor Section brought a very successful season to a close with the walk at Brighton for the Farmer Cup. We hope C. Williamson will be quite fit after the holiday to take up his challenging position again, and we are pleased to note that Micky Burns' efforts to get the rowing going have met with no small success.

In the Indoor Section the Tuesday and Saturday Whist Drives are very popular and "Tiny" Fleming and his Sub-Committee have certainly had a busy time. A jolly good time was had by all on the Derby outing. Our Darts team attended the Wimbledon Darts League and played the champions, losing only by a very narrow margin, and our Concert Party visited Merton and were very well received. In the meantime, the Darts, Crib and Domino Competitions are in progress. Don't forget that the Whist Competitions for the Sir Arthur Pearson prizes start on September 6th. So, taking things all round, there seems a little bit of something for everybody at the Club and new fellows will find a welcome always.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge.—With the Summer upon us and the holiday season in full swing, it is not so easy to fix matches, so June has been a quiet month, only one match being played, although the attendance at the Club is still maintained. We had a good match with Jack Callow's team, and they had their revenge on us for their last defeat. We have to congratulate Messrs. Jolly and Fisher on their win in the first round of the Pearson Cup, and at the same time condole with the losers, but there is always another chance. We are hoping to enter a team run by the London Business Houses, and this ought to afford some good bridge. There is one thing I should like to point out to members, and that is if they have private matches and have any results to report, it would at least show a little respect and courtesy for the Captain, and to the Club, if their reports were handed in to the Secretary of the Club and went in with his report.

J. MUIR.

Outdoor Section.—The following Walks Programme for the season 1950-51 was suggested by the Outdoor Sports Committee and approved by the General Committee. The actual dates will be notified later:—

Four Miles and Novices' Handicap.

Five Miles Handicap.

Six Miles Handicap.

Seven Miles Handicap.

Ten Miles Handicap.

Seven Miles All-England Championship.

The proposal to hold two walks of Twelve and Fifteen Miles as handicaps was left in abeyance, to be reconsidered in the New Year.

A Swimming Gala will be held in Birmingham during the month of September, when the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Fund Swimming Prize will be competed for. Members who are interested and wish to take part in the contest should write or 'phone to Jack Dawkins at Headquarters, as early as possible.

Presented to Queen Mary

Horace Manning, now fit and well after his recent operation, was presented to Queen Mary when Her Majesty visited the London Hospital on June 15th. He was one of five members of the staff with over twenty-five years' service with the Hospital. His own record as telephonist is twenty-nine years.

Miss Garvie

Miss C. K. Garvie, Secretary of the National Library for the Blind, is getting married in September and will therefore be retiring from the Library, with which she has been associated for twenty years.

To mark their appreciation of her long and most helpful service, a presentation fund has been started by her many blind friends who have enjoyed the facilities of the Library, and any St. Dunstaners who would like to take part are invited to send their contributions to Mr. R. W. Bridger, c/o the National Library for the Blind, 35 Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1. The fund will close on August 22nd.

Wanted

A TALKING PARROT, reasonable price—Details please to A. G. Bright, 56 Berwick, Road, South Shore, Blackpool.

Living at Home

The following article recently appeared in the "Cord," the magazine of the Paraplegic Branch of the British Legion. The writer is a paraplegic himself—that is, he is paralysed from the waist down—and his article follows others by similarly handicapped people upon their adjustment—or otherwise—to their grave handicap.

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"Only three contributors seem to have found any great difficulty in adjusting themselves to the intricacies and confusions of a new existence. I have been chastened because I seem to have succeeded so badly myself; amazed because there appear to be so few like me.

With the day-to-day business of living I need not concern myself. Most of what is necessary and a good deal of what is important has already been said in previous articles. I have picked up quite a number of hints, and I used to consider myself well organised. I have a job, I drive a car, I am responsible for a household, and I do all the usual things. But one thing I did not find. No one offered any answer—beyond the obvious one—to the dis-ease and dissatisfactions of the mind. Accept, they said. Of course. But accept what, and how far?

Possibly the reason is that the writers of these articles are temperamentally stable—or that they have not yet gone far enough. For in a way this business of dealing with the problem of paraplegia is rather like coping with income tax in this country to-day. Your first £110 you get free of tax—that is your initial adjustment, the automatic one, the time when you are in hospital and you begin to realise that there are endless things that you can still do, lots of things to enjoy, plenty of scope for ambition. Then come the tax-free allowances—the placidity of your type of mind, your lack of ambition, the apparent simplicities of your new existence. You can't do such and such a thing? So what! Forget it. But it is after that, after you break away from the simplified life of hospital, once you start doing things, that the difficulties begin. It is then that the Collector of Taxes starts knocking daily on your door. For you begin to realise, not what you can't do, but that you do not know accurately what you can't do. And this is the taxation, this is what ends, when you have proved that you can do almost everything, at 19s. 6d. in the £. And,

who knows, there may be a Capital Levy at the end.

It may, indeed, seem paradoxical that I claim that the more you can do, the more you should be distressed by the things which you cannot do. And of course it is paradoxical—except for the owners of a certain type of mind; and for them I am sure that this problem is bound to be the major one in their process of re-adjustment. For them it is only a further burden added to those they would have had to bear in any case, one extra arrow to which their excessive sensibility renders them vulnerable. Touched at all times by experience just beyond the edge of consciousness, and by the desire for more, they are touched now by the lack of experience within the edge of consciousness, but just, apparently only just, beyond the limit of capacity and by the desire for such experience. This is, of course, of general application. Most people cry for the stars at one time or another, until they know they cannot have them. But these of whom I am talking are not sure whether they can have them or not. Some, of course, the bright constellations of movement, of ease from pain, of absolute normality, they have long since accepted as unobtainable. But the others? The higher they climb and the more they pluck from the night sky, the harder it becomes to know which are and which are not in reach—and whether it is worth going on reaching.

Yes. No. Different people say different things. Accept. Submit. But why? If you accept at the beginning you die, or you merely continue to exist. If you accept and submit in the middle, then you have acknowledged defeat. So when do you start accepting and submitting? Of course, there are some things, the incontrovertible physical facts, which you accept at once, which you must accept, because if you don't there is no point or meaning or possible happiness in existence. But the others? How do you know this can't be done, or that achieved? It is not, the Editor of "The Cord" wrote some time ago, the acceptance of limitation which is difficult; it is the knowledge of the limitation. And to acquire that knowledge means that acceptance is not the first thing, but the last.

Not the first thing, but the last, and between first and last lies the process of discovery. Not just one discovery, but

hundreds. You are not just Columbus, but you are Drake and Magellan and Henry the Navigator as well. You are Hudson and Franklin, Cooke, Speke and Livingstone. There is no end to it. You are always searching and always finding, and always on the verge of discovery. Who says the world is flat, that there is no America, no North-West Passage, no way round the Horn? And if anyone does say so, is there any need to accept their word? Well, is there? That, of course, is the problem. When do you settle back and reckon that the existing maps are good enough?

Well then, what else is there? Non-attachment, suggests an article in the Autumn number of "The Cord." Of course, of course! Non-attachment is the answer to all the ills of this transitory world, but it is the saint's way, not the sinner's. It is, in any case, the antithesis of the attitude of those whom I am describing, whose life is based on a passionate attachment—to people, to things, to ideals, to the desire to conquer disability, to live. They are committed to seeking a full existence, and non-attachment is for them only possible at the end—or as an easy way out if they cannot stand the pace.

To this article there can, of course, be no conclusion. For there is—for me—no conclusion to come to. Life goes on—in all conscience comfortably enough nine-tenths of the time, with all the compensatory mechanisms working smoothly, the adjustments perfectly made. Then crack!—there comes the arrow in the morning, the falling star. What does one do then?"

Ministry of Pensions Cars

The following St. Dunstaners have recently received their cars:—

A. E. Baldwin, Brighton; W. E. Bamber, Hassocks; G. Durant, Worthing; J. Irvine, Glasgow; D. McGoohan, Watford; W. Morris, Chorley; R. Osborne, Saltdean; G. B. Priest, Birmingham; W. S. Scroggie, Dundee; R. Slade, Addiscombe.

National Insurance

It would greatly assist the work of our Insurance Department if all St. Dunstaners would forward their record cards to Headquarters when they receive them from the local offices of the Ministry of National Insurance. This is very important, as it enables us to keep each man's records completely up to date.

ALEX. MACKAY,
Welfare Superintendent.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Regarding A. J. Radford's letter about tired fingers. It may depend upon how many fingers a man has, and what he does with them. A man with one hand or reduced to, say, four fingers on his two hands, tries to make those fingers do the work of eight and that must cause a great strain. We deaf men have all our fingers but what do we do without them?

We have the habit, however, of washing our hands as frequently as possible, because we never know who is coming along to talk to us, and this washing, as Radford suggests, might account for our keen touch. When reading, cold hands is the only thing I have suffered from, but whether it is years of basket-making or the manual alphabet, I find my wrists aching at times when at work or talking.

Yours sincerely,

Southwick.

GEORGE FALLOWFIELD.

DEAR EDITOR,

Now that all is completed in respect of my Memorial Gardento Sir Arthur, I am anxious to start an "Old Bill" Club and invite all St. Dunstaners of the 1914-18 war to become Members. There are no subscriptions or fees to pay, and members are invited to foregather at the "Dug-Out," which is adjacent to the Garden of Remembrance, on the last Sunday in July, August and September, for the purpose of reviving memories and uniting in a determination to *live* to a ripe old age.

All "Old-Timers" who happen to be spending holidays in Brighton during the summer months from now on will be cordially invited.

The Toast is "Sir Arthur"—this will represent the only ritual.

Yours sincerely,

Portslade, Sussex.

ALAN NICHOLS.

DEAR EDITOR,

After having my typewriter stolen when returning from Ovingdean at the end of last term, I think it would be a good idea to have our machines stamped with some easily distinguishable mark, such as the words "St. Dunstan's."

I know this would not stop anyone from stealing one, but at least they might not be so keen to keep it.

Yours sincerely,

Macclesfield.

(Mrs.) M. STANWAY.

Ovingdean Notes

The racing enthusiasts were well served this month and no doubt several trainees were envious of the opportunities afforded the holiday men. During the first week of June, Lewes and Brighton races were attended by a large crowd of St. Dunstan's holiday-makers. The weather was ideal and we heard that even when that "certainty" didn't come home everyone was more than satisfied with the day out!

From races to drives around Sussex were all part of the holiday programme, but on June 17th a party of trainees and holiday St. Dunstaners went by coach to a party given by the Finchley British Legion, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

The Debating Society has been temporarily disbanded during the Summer months. However, our visiting lecturer this month was Colonel Davys, who is always assured of a good attendance. This time he gave a most interesting talk on "South Africa and the Colour Problem." Whilst these lectures were, in the first instance, arranged for trainees, we have been very pleased indeed to find that many St. Dunstaners on holiday have been drawn to attending them, and that this interest is growing.

The Far East Prisoner-of-War Social Club is now meeting monthly at the Chelsea Town Hall, and they have extended a welcome and an open invitation to any St. Dunstaner who is also an ex P.O.W. (Far East). The Secretary is Mr. Grant Smart, of 18 George Lane, South Woodford (Telephone Wanstead 1273), and he will be pleased to hear from any St. Dunstaner ex P.O.W. who would like to join the Association. Another party went from Ovingdean to the June meeting, and spent a happy evening meeting old friends.

On June 25th a party of World War One St. Dunstaners from Ovingdean were invited by Alan Nichols, of Portslade, to visit the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Garden he has laid out adjacent to his own house. A group of 25 went over and were entertained to tea.

Amongst other invitations accepted this month was one from the "Pudding Club" at Downlands Hotel, Worthing, where the Social planned was much enjoyed and, of course, the Darts Team has been very busy.

Our Sports Day, held this year on July 8th, was something we had all been looking

forward to. Nor were we in any way disappointed. After a somewhat dull week, the sun came out to shine that Saturday morning and we all took fresh heart!

It was a great pleasure for us to have Sir Ian and Lady Fraser with us this year, and this was further enhanced by the arrival with them of Sir Neville and Lady Pearson. We were glad too that so many St. Dunstaners, although not staying at Ovingdean, supported the events and we were delighted to welcome all our guests. Our congratulations go to Hastings and Birmingham for each sending a team of competitors, and we hope very much that next year there will be a large number of towns sending teams to compete. London won the Cup again and we congratulate them most sincerely.

The prize of a silver braille watch, presented by Freddie Mills, ex holder of the World, European, British and Empire light heavy-weight Boxing Championships, was given for the 70 yards totally blind race. This was won by Colin Fraser, of Ovingdean, with a time of 9 seconds. Incidentally, this was the first time Colin had competed in sports since he came to St. Dunstan's.

Throwing the Cricket Ball—

1, J. Kibbler (Birmingham) 222ft.; 2, A. Hobson (Hastings) 212ft. 4in.; 3, G. McKay (Ovingdean) 201ft.

70 Yards T-B.—

1, C. Fraser (Ovingdean) 9 seconds; 2, P. Botha (London) 9 4/5th secs.; 3, C. Stafford (London) 10 secs.

70 Yards Semi-Sighted—

1, T. Denmead (Ovingdean) 8 2/5th secs.; 2, R. David (London) 8 4/5th secs.; 3, D. Faulkner, B. Miller, J. Kibbler, 10 secs.

Throwing the Discus—

1, P. O'Sullivan (Ovingdean), 85ft. 10in.; 2, P. Botha (London) 84ft. 4in.; 3, N. Daniels (London) 79ft. 5in.

Standing Long Jump—

1, P. Botha (London); 2, N. Daniels (London); 3, A. Hobson (Hastings).

Putting the Weight—

1, N. Daniels (London); 2, P. Botha (London); 3, J. Kibbler (Birmingham).

Throwing the Medicine Ball—

1, P. Botha (London); 2, N. Daniels (London); 3, P. O'Sullivan (Ovingdean).

Tug-o'-War—

Won by London.

Area Relay—

Ovingdean 1st; London 2nd.

Immediately after the last event, the prizes were presented to the winners by Sir Ian Fraser. The Individual Cup winner was P. Botha (London) with 14 points and N. Daniels was the runner-up with 9 points. The Area Cup was won by the London Team with 41 points, with Ovingdean as runner-up with 24 points. And so Sports Day was over for another year.

The R.A.F. Entertains

The Shawbury Camp

July 1st saw a happy score of St. Dunstaners arrive at Shrewsbury, where a party of R.A.F. types welcomed them. And for the next week the campers found life very full—never a dull moment, from early tea to that last drink.

Saturday evening was spent in a shaking-down manner, some of the previous year's visitors renewing old friendships, whilst newcomers soon found themselves taken in hand, and by bedtime all were fully at ease.

Sunday found a coach taking the party, with some of the R.A.F., to the old Second War Home, Church Stretton. We enjoyed all the delights of a picnic lunch, even if the hard-boiled eggs did not live up to their name. The weather was glorious and the few Second War men found this an agreeable surprise to the usual rain of the old place.

Monday came and saw St. Dunstaners revelling in the game of inspecting aircraft inside and out, feeling the controls and trying to understand the meaning of such things as "Rebecca," "Gee," radio compass, radar and "George." During the succeeding days, the same programme was the morning and afternoon procedure with the Met. Office, Control Tower, Maintenance Workshops, and the Link Trainer, which gave all the thrills of flying one's own aircraft with absolute safety.

The evenings found our hosts really going full steam to entertain us—on Monday evening the Officers' Mess, Tuesday a grand concert, Wednesday Sergeants' Mess, Thursday cinema, Friday afternoon the Sergeants' Wives' tea, with the Corporals' Mess to follow, and the Grand Carnival Dance.

There was only one regret—that the full number of St. Dunstaners were not there, and there was room for more of the second generation.

JOHN A. MUDGE.

Talking Book Library

Jim's and J. Jefferson's June

"J" does not always provide a suitable adjective for a heading, but this month the authors, Messrs. Corbett and Farjeon, considerably provide christian names of this initial. Also, of the four books released, "Man-eaters of Kumaon" by the one and "Prelude to Crime" by the other, are the two books of general interest. A history text book, "A History of Europe, Vol. 3" and "Abinger Harvest," a literary commentary, complete the issue.

"Man-eaters of Kumaon," by Jim Corbett, reader Eric Gillett, is a tiger hunting story of Northern India. The Poona-wallah of club stories must give best to this iron-nerved hunter. One's interest is held from first to last, and the author explains that only a defective tiger is forced into becoming a man-eater. At the end of the book I felt that the author would have more chance against a man-eater with a pair of knitting needles than you or I with a 25-pounder. Absorbing!

"Prelude to Crime," by J. Jefferson Farjeon, reader Lionel Marson, is a mystery story set in the private nursing home of a psychiatrist with a London practice. The home is in the country and the four or five inmates are neurotics, so that when crime rears its ugly head the set-up becomes doubly strange. The outcome of the story produces an ideal piece of poetic justice which is completely satisfactory. Entertaining reading!

"A History of Europe, Vol. 3," by H. A. L. Fisher, reader Eric Gillett, is a history text book of roughly one hundred and fifty years up to the early thirties of this century. It is both instructive and readable, but entertaining—no!

"Abinger Harvest," by E. M. Forster, reader Lionel Marson, is a book into which I failed to get my teeth and so my impressions are far from clear cut. However, in the main, it seemed to be an appreciation of various novelists of this century and last. It began with some heavy, dated humour, and finally just seemed to peter out. I suspect that it is a soporific!

Please confirm my suspicion!

"NELSON."

★ ★ ★

As in past years, there will be no REVIEW for the month of August.

“ In Memory ”

Gunner Alfred Bristow, Royal Garrison Artillery

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. Bristow, of Bexhill-on-Sea. He was sixty years of age.

He was wounded at Arras in 1917 and subsequently recovered a little sight, but in 1936 he was admitted to St. Dunstan's. He made netting his occupation and took the keenest interest in sport. Only two days before his death he was at a local cricket match. He was also a keen bird fancier and his canaries won many trophies at local shows.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers at the funeral. Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Bristow in her loss.

Lance Corporal Thomas Henry Marshall, Royal Air Force

With deep regret we record the death of T. H. Marshall, of Worcester.

This St. Dunstaner served from February, 1917, until August, 1918, and came to us two years later. He was trained in boot repairing and mat-making, but he was never very strong and had suffered for a long time. Among the flowers was a wreath from the Chairman and his friends at St. Dunstan's. We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife and family.

Sergeant Major Harry Albert Russell, Labour Corps

With deep regret we record the death of H. A. Russell, which occurred at our Ovingdean Home on June 18th.

He came to St. Dunstan's in February, 1925, and trained in basket-making, but in October, 1945, in failing health, he was admitted as a permanent resident.

Wreaths from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends were among the flowers at the funeral.

Sergeant William Sharpe, 7th West Yorkshire Regt.

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of W. Sharpe, of Kirkstall, Leeds.

His service began in November, 1914, and although his sight was damaged as a result of mustard gas he did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1938. He was then unable to undertake any heavy work. He did, however, have a business at one time, but of late years he had led a quiet life, doing just a little netting. He died at his home after an illness of several weeks.

A wreath from Sir Ian was among the flowers at the funeral.

He leaves a widow and family to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Private Alexander Chiverton, Labour Corps

With deep regret we record the death of A. Chiverton, of Portchester, which occurred on July 4th, at our Ovingdean Home.

In August, 1921, his eyes began to be affected as a result of his war service, and he came to St. Dunstan's the following year. He then trained in mat-making and netting.

He was one of our keenest walkers in his early days and took part in several of the London to Brighton Walks.

Wreaths from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends were sent for the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Chiverton and her family.

Births

ALLEN—On July 10th, to the wife of G. M. Allen, of Hull, a son.

DUGDALE.—On June 30th, to the wife of N. Dugdale, of Moston, Manchester, a son.

KOEHORST—On July 1st, to Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Koehorst, of Pretoria, a son—Peter Charles.

MCGOCHAN.—On July 4th, to the wife of D. McGoohan, of Watford, a daughter—Frances Josephine.

STUART.—On June 10th, to the wife of J. J. W. Stuart, of High Wycombe, a son—Keith John.

Grandfather

F. R. Aubrey, Bristol.

Golden Wedding

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. A. Bosley, of Tooting, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on June 18th.

Miss H. E. Clegg

Those First War St. Dunstaners who were at the Bungalow will hear with deep regret of the death on July 11th of Miss H. E. Clegg, who worked there as a daily V.A.D. for some years.

Placements

J. Loach, as a telephone operator with Messrs. Hill & Smith, Ltd., Brierley Hill; P. J. Cryan, as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. Benton & Stone, Birmingham.

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

MR. W. G. Askew, O.B.E., has completed thirty-one years' service at St. Dunstan's and has attained the age of sixty years. The normal retiring age for men in St. Dunstan's service is sixty-five years. Mr. Askew has expressed to the Council his desire to take things a little more easily as he is, like many of us, getting older, and he suggested going on to part-time work. Mr. Askew is one of those men who never does things by halves, and is an extremely hard worker, and I think he is very wise after the strain of recent years to let up a bit. The Council and I personally welcome the opportunity of ensuring that his extremely valuable services shall continue to be available to us in the fields in which they are most difficult to replace, and we have accordingly agreed that he shall go on to part-time work at part-time salary for the remaining five years of his service. Mr. Askew will move his office to South Audley Street, where he will attend several days a week, and Mr. Lloyds will be appointed to the office of deputy secretary and will be in charge of all the administrative work carried on from Marylebone Road. Mr. Askew will continue to hold the office of Secretary of St. Dunstan's and will advise the Council and the Chairman on matters relating to our outside relations with the Government and other bodies and our general policy. He will also act as secretary to the Council and remain the head of the staff. This change will be a great advantage to St. Dunstan's, for the complexity of our business has grown greatly in recent years and St. Dunstan's is a vast undertaking involving great responsibility for those in charge. Mr. Askew will have more time for thinking and helping to plan and guide at the highest level which is very necessary in these days. Mr. Askew has been my colleague for over thirty years now, and no one knows better than I the value of his single-minded and wise judgment. The present disturbed state of the world involves a widespread organisation like ours in the making of plans to meet all emergencies, and I have the more confidence in placing these matters in Mr. Askew's hands if he is free from day to day administrative, executive and staffing problems. Mr. Lloyds, who is a chartered accountant, has been our financial secretary for some years, and since his return from a Japanese prison camp has been taking more and more responsibility. All will, I feel sure, wish Mr. Askew enjoyment of his next five years of important work and will wish good luck to Mr. Lloyds in his new responsibility.

IAN FRASER.

London Reunion Dance

The London Reunion Dance will take place again this year at the Seymour Hall, Seymour Place, London, W.1 (close to Marylebone Tube Station), on Wednesday, November 29th, from 7.30 to 11 p.m.

This dance is primarily for St. Dunstaners living in the London area, and it is not possible to book any accommodation for those who cannot return to their homes the same night.

One ticket will admit a St. Dunstaner and one escort; (it is regretted that children under sixteen cannot be included).

Application for tickets should be made to Mr. Mackay, at Headquarters, *as soon as possible*, and in any case not later than Monday, November 6th.

The Queen's Tribute

On July 17th, Her Majesty the Queen concluded her visit to Northern Ireland with a visit to the Lord Roberts' Memorial Workshops at Castlereagh. Her Majesty spoke to a number of the fifty disabled ex-servicemen employed there, and in declaring the building open said: "We all owe a special debt to those who have been disabled in the war. We cannot discharge it better than by doing everything in our power to enable those who have fought our battles to recapture their longed-for independence, and thereby once more to take their place among their fellow men to lead again a useful and contented life."

Mr. Banks' Marriage

On August 12th, the marriage took place of Mr. Leslie Banks, M.B.E., Pensions Officer at St. Dunstan's, to Miss Muriel Joan Winder, of Hove. Miss Winder was a car driver for St. Dunstan's, at Brighton, until last year, when she left to take up another appointment.

The congratulations and good wishes of all St. Dunstaners will go out to them.

Many St. Dunstaners have expressed a wish to subscribe to a wedding present for Mr. and Mrs. Banks. The Commandant has offered to act as Honorary Treasurer, and contributions should be sent to him at Ovingdean.

Placements

J. Miller, of Glasgow, as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. L. Sterne & Co., Ltd.; T. Woods, of Chorley, as a cafe proprietor.

West House

By the time St. Dunstaners receive their REVIEW, the work of reconstructing West House will be finished, and the men who have to reside permanently at St. Dunstan's will have been transferred from Ovingdean and Blackpool, where they have been temporarily accommodated. The few remaining beds are already earmarked for men requiring extended convalescence in a quiet surrounding, with the nursing and medical facilities which will be available there.

The contractors have done their work well, and they are only a week or two later than we originally contemplated.

Mrs. R. Avison, who is a qualified nurse, has been appointed Matron, and many St. Dunstaners will know and remember her as she assisted us in a temporary capacity for some months in 1946 and 1947, and again in 1949, when we required skilled help in the sick wards.

Wilfred Pickles Keeps a Promise

"Dickie" Richardson opened his tobacconist's shop in Worcester on August 22nd, and Wilfred Pickles kept a three-year-old promise to be his first customer. The promise was made to "Dickie" when Wilfred visited St. Dunstan's Training Centre at Ovingdean in 1947, in his radio feature, "Have a Go."

Not only were Wilfred Pickles and Mrs. Pickles there, but the Mayor of Worcester and the Mayoress were present, and Colonel Eric Ball, Senior Member of our Council, represented St. Dunstan's. After making his first purchase, Wilfred took off his coat and turned salesman—and the police had to keep the crowds in check!

When the little ceremony was over, Dickie and his party were invited to lunch at the Guildhall, at the invitation of the Mayor.

It was altogether a great day!

Board Residence

St. Dunstaners visiting London, their wives, families and guide dogs (if any) are cordially invited to stay at Mernay House Private Hotel, 53 Bembridge Villas, Notting Hill Gate, London, W.11. (Owned and managed by St. Dunstan John Martin).

London Club Notes

On Saturday, September 2nd, the London Club reopened and on that afternoon the Bridge Section started off with a well attended Drive, and in the evening a merry coachload set off for the "Prince of Wales," Buckhurst Hill, for a keenly contested Darts, Dominoes and Crib match. Our hosts presented us with a new dart board for the Club and we are looking forward to entertaining their team at our club. On July 15th our walkers competed in a match with the R.A.F. at Halton, and the results shown elsewhere will prove the keenness of all the competitors. After the race we were entertained to tea, and a speech of welcome was made by Flight Lieut. Cobb. Our thanks are due to Ron Towers and the R.A.F. boys who made us so welcome and subscribed to the prizes won by our chaps. We are looking forward to the return match on October 14th.

The London Club is now well in its stride, and we look forward to seeing new faces during the coming winter.

P. ASHTON.

Outdoor Section

September 23rd—Highgate Harriers Invitation 2 miles walk, Parliament Hill Fields, 2.30 p.m.

October 14th—St. Dunstan's 4 miles walk, Regent's Park, 2.30 p.m., match with R.A.F., Halton.

Bridge Notes

We started July with a Bridge Drive and honours go to Fred Winter and partner as the winners. Later in the month we were given a good game by Barclays Bank and they won by a good margin. The rest of the month was quiet. As the permanent attendance of the Club is growing, the old idea of teams of eight must give way to teams of twelve, if not it means three quarters of the club sitting out when we have matches, and also that a great deal of the members of the club never get an opportunity of playing competitive bridge at all. Now that we are affiliated with the London Business Houses Association, we are going to extend our range as regards teams who would like to visit us. We have entered a team of four in the league in connection with the L.B.H., and perhaps next year, if it proves a success, we might manage eight.

J. MUIR.

Indoor Section

The club is once more in full swing and a busy time lies ahead. Details of forthcoming events whenever possible will be announced in the REVIEW and always on the Club notice board. Will members who are able to attend Club regularly please pass on information regarding Club activities to those who are unable to do so. The programme being arranged for the coming winter months has been asked for by members and it is hoped that all functions will be well attended. Please watch this column and the notice board.

A Get Together Dance will be held at the Chelsea Town Hall on October 13th. Admission 2s. 6d. Fully licensed bar, light refreshments, spot prizes. Dancing to Ralph Parkins and his band, 7.30 till 11.0. Tickets can be obtained from Mr. Willis or Miss Ibbetson at the club, or from any Committee Member.

TINY FLEMING.

Five Mile Walk

Match

St. Dunstan's v. R.A.F., Halton, 15th July, 1950
Sealed Handicap in Conjunction

		RESULT			
Order of			H'cp.	H'cp.	Pos. in
Finish	Name	Club	Time	All.	Time in H'cp.
			m. s.		
1	Gaygan	St. D.	41:28	Scr.	41:28 6
2	Johnson	R.A.F.	42:16	1:05	41:11 5
3	Eastwood	R.A.F.	42:45	1:50	40:55 3
4	Moseling	R.A.F.	45:02	3:00	42:02 8
5	Brown	St. D.	45:18	.50	44:28 12
6	Griffiths	R.A.F.	45:34	4:30	41:04 4
7	Miller	St. D.	45:39	2:40	42:59 11
8	Smith	R.A.F.	46:40	4:20	42:20 9
9	White	R.A.F.	47:39	4:45	42:54 10
10	Hailes	St. D.	47:44	9:50	37:54 1
11	Stafford	St. D.	49:24	10:05	39:19 2
12	Gardner	R.A.F.	50:35	9:05	41:30 7
	R.A.F., Halton		2, 3, 4, 6, 8	=23 points	
	St. Dunstan's		1, 5, 7, 10, 11	=34 points	
	Scratch Prize, Gaygan.				
	Handicap—1st, Hailes.				
	2nd, Stafford.				

The Retreat from Mons

W. Webb, of Great Houghton, who served in the Connaught Rangers, wants to know what other St. Dunstaners were in the retreat from Mons.

Blood Donor

D. T. Edwards, of Hatch, Bedfordshire, has been a blood donor thirty-eight times.

After Thirty-three Years

To those who were fortunate enough to have spent some of their time at the College Annexe in Regent's Park:—

It has been proposed that a Reunion should be held before we all grow too old! The suggested date would be Saturday, November 28th, 1950. A lunch, smokes, chat and afternoon tea, 12.30—5.30 p.m.

A fee of 10s. 6d. would be necessary to cover expenses.

Further details will be announced in the October REVIEW if sufficient numbers of men and ex-V.A.D.s are prepared to co-operate. We do so hope it will be a real family gathering, and that as many as possible will come. Replies must be received by September 30th, and may be sent to any of the undersigned.

We hope to arrange accommodation for any who come from a distance, and cannot be put up by friends in town.

F. C. B. LLOYD, *Hon. Sec.,*
Organising Committee.

W. T. SCOTT, *Hon. Treas.*

DUSTY MILLER, *Assistant Sec.*

Quince Tree Cottage,
Bolney, Sussex.

Our First Newspaper Correspondent

W. J. Carthy, of Rainworth, has been appointed Newspaper Correspondent there by the *Mansfield Reporter*. In announcing the appointment, the newspaper gave a report of our St. Dunstaner's fine record—first as an active member of a Liverpool aero club, where he learned to fly, then in the R.A.F., his admission to St. Dunstan's and subsequent settlement as a shop-keeper, and lastly his many British Legion, R.A.F.A., and other activities. The article concluded: "The *Mansfield Reporter* has been without a representative for a long time, but the waiting has, we now realise, been well worth while. We take a sense of pride in breaking a St. Dunstaner into journalism."

Indian St. Dunstaner's Success

Congratulations to Gopal Krishna Unny, late Petty Officer in the Indian Navy, who last June passed his matriculation, and has now gained the Diploma for Public Administration of London University.

St. Dunstaner Flies to Australia

Our old friend, I. Corns, has just returned to Australia by air. Here is his description of his journey.

★ ★ ★

I started my flight at 10.45 a.m. We flew to Rome, which was the first stop, then took off again, arriving at Cairo on the same day, June 12th, at 9.45 p.m. Here we stayed the night. The next day we were off again, being airborne at 8 a.m. and heading for Karachi, at a height of 1,500ft. and an air speed of 300 miles an hour. Coffee kept us going until lunch time, when we had a large plate of boiled ham, salad with fresh buttered rolls, and a little drop of the "doings" to wash it down. The air hostess then came round and let down the back of our seats so that we could have forty winks. Six hours later we touched down at Karachi. A light dinner and we were airborne again to arrive at Calcutta at 4.30 a.m. Here we refilled our petrol tanks for the big hop to Singapore, which we reached at 3.30 p.m.

Breakfast at 5 a.m., then for the long hop to Darwin. Not once did I lose any meal. I am just as good a flyer as I am a sailor. We landed in Australia at Darwin at 8 p.m. Then comes the fun.

The captain came to tell us that Sydney aerodrome was flooded, and we might have to stay the night. At 2.30 a.m. he came to us again and called for volunteers for the trip to Sydney by flying boat, and little Corns rushed at the chance. Twenty-one of us got aboard the flying boat at 3 a.m., and arrived in Sydney in heavy rain—and believe me it can rain in Sydney. This was at 4.30 p.m. We were then told that a Skymaster was to leave for Melbourne at 5.55 p.m., and the only way to catch it was to get a taxi and rush to the aerodrome, which we did, only to be told that there was to be a delay as the airstrip was under water. However, we were in the air again at 7.50 p.m., heading for Melbourne, and at 9.33 p.m., on June 16th, I was met by my family. A grand meal at my daughter's home, and then the clock struck 2 a.m. Into the car I got with my son and his family and headed for Oakleigh, 20 miles away. More chinwag, and then I made my way to bed at 4 a.m., only to start dreaming of my flight and my air hostess.

P.S.—I think I stood the trip well, as I am seventy years of age. I. C.

Reunions

On July 4th, Birmingham and District St. Dunstaners held their annual meeting. It was a grand party. Mr. R. Strong, Organising Secretary of Birmingham County Council of the British Legion was the guest of honour who welcomed them. Some forty Midlanders were present.

On Friday, the 7th, Colonel Eric Ball presided at the Cardiff Reunion, at the Park Hotel, and here the British Legion guest was Captain J. Prince, M.B.E., General Secretary of the Cardiff and District Branch.

The Liverpool Meeting, as usual, was spread over two days. Nearly one hundred St. Dunstaners in all came together at Reece's Restaurant on Thursday, July 20th, and Saturday, the 22nd. The guest of honour at the first meeting was Mr. A. R. Cannell, M.B.E., member of the North Western Area, British Legion, and on the second day, Mr. T. F. Lister, C.B.E., a member of the Executive Council of the British Legion, who, incidentally, was the Legion's first Chairman. Most welcome guests also at this meeting were Major and Mrs. Charters.

On July 24th, at Manchester, Captain S. H. Hampson, M.B.E., M.C., M.A., National Vice-Chairman of the British Legion, and Chairman of the North Western Area, was the guest of honour. Mrs. Irvine and Matron Davies were among old friends present.

The Leicester meeting on August 11th saw some fifty St. Dunstaners assembled for a happy meeting and a pleasant little ceremony—a presentation to Mrs. Argyle. Mr. R. E. Cruickshank, v.c., Vice-President of the Leicester and Rutland County British Legion, was the guest of honour.

Test Results

Typing.—H. Webster (Bor.), W. Edwards, J. Dix, H. Westby, F. Boughton, A. Robinson, J. Miller, F. Lipscombe, W. Flowers, O. J. Robson (Bor.).

Preliminary.—H. Roberts (Bor.), G. L. McKay (Bor.), W. Flowers.

Senior.—W. Evans, R. Fullard.

Writing.—J. Cowan, H. Roberts (Bor.), R. Green (Bor.), T. Harrison.

Advanced.—J. Todd.

From All Quarters

G. W. R. Shepherd, of Aldfold, who takes a great interest in social activities, has founded a Young Conservatives Branch in his village.

J. O. Gannon, a new war St. Dunstaner, was presented to His Holiness the Pope when he visited Rome recently. A correspondent in the *Catholic Times* (which also published a photograph) described him as "one of the finest Catholics it has been my privilege to meet."

When Winchcombe Branch of Toc H returned to its headquarters after ten years, Cheltenham members visited it, and one of their number—St. Dunstaner "Bunny" Hare—presented a doormat made by himself. The mat was a small token of appreciation for what Winchcombe members had done in the past for St. Dunstan's. The mat had the letters "Toc H" worked on it.

W. B. Riley, of Capetown, has been on a visit to this country, visiting his 78 year old mother. He returns to South Africa in September. A Halifax newspaper, reporting his visit to his home town, recalled his business success, both in this country and in South Africa.

F. Mills, of Tavistock, gained two first prizes for cucumbers, and second prize for shallots, at the local Show.

W. Bignell, of Edgware, won the challenge certificate for the best sable doe, and another first prize, at the Rabbit Show at Hendon, in August. Entries came from all parts of the country.

E. H. Carpenter, of King's Langley, spent a holiday recently at Prestatyn Holiday Camp. During the first week, from one hundred pairs, he won the Old Time Waltz competition, and was in the final three in his second week. The adjudicators select from the one hundred pairs twelve, then six, then three.

A. T. Wigglesworth, of Bradford, who is one of our one-armed telephonists, had a complimentary write-up in the local paper recently. Alf is now telephone operator on the Shipley Council's switchboard.

W. Storer, who is telephonist at Rugby Hospital, has had severe pain recently in his leg. His doctor tells him that he still has shrapnel from his old wound in it. Treatment is helping it at the moment, but he is awaiting the result of an X-Ray.

"You're Welcome"

By W. T. CURTIS-WILLSON, M.B.E., J.P.

The memories of great events in which one has been privileged to take part often hang upon some seeming triviality. The outstanding memory for me of the Seventh Imperial Press Conference, held in Canada this year, will be the kindness, courtesy and grace of all the Canadians whom I met. The universal response of these people, whether cabinet ministers or shop assistants, bus drivers or hotel servants, to any word of thanks was "You're welcome."

My wife and I were indeed made welcome, and we felt that that homely rejoinder was not merely a matter of speech, but a real expression from the heart.

The Conference was an important occasion and I was greatly honoured to be selected as one of the twenty delegates from Great Britain, who assembled at Quebec early in June, with other Empire representatives from Canada, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Malaya, Bermuda, the Bahamas, the West Indies, Fiji, Malta and Gibraltar.

The British group travelled to Canada on the new C.P.R. liner, the *Empress of Scotland*, and made the journey from Clyde to Quebec in just under seven days.

The business of the Conference was transacted in the four principal cities of Eastern Canada—Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto. It concerned the Press of the Commonwealth, its relations with the Dominion Governments, the Colonial Office and all the departments at home which are concerned with the intricate web of communications—the supplies of newsprint, Colonial Press laws, and, of course, the very controversial question of the proposed British Press Council.

The gravity of the problems, however, was not allowed to interfere with the social side of this Empire gathering. Indeed, the social side is no less important than the business sessions, for it is in the day-to-day contacts with people from all over the world that the complete picture of how the British Empire is made up can be properly learned.

It was our extreme good fortune to meet the Governor General of Canada, Field Marshal Viscount Alexander, the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent; that outstanding Empire statesman, Mr. Mackenzie King;

Mr. Humphrey Mitchell, a native of my own Sussex, and a most competent Minister of Labour, and scores of other leading citizens, who all sought to make us feel that we were indeed welcome in this vast Dominion. It is sad to record, so soon after our return, the deaths of both Mr. Mackenzie King and Mr. Mitchell.

At an official garden party, General Crerar, who commanded the First Canadian Army in France and Germany, sought me out. My son's Squadron had been attached to his Headquarters and before he was killed, my boy frequently acted as personal pilot to the General. It was typical of these warm-hearted people that this leader of men should have a kindly word for the father of one who had served him.

The ordinary folk were no less hospitable, and the warmth of the homely greetings everywhere we went left a deep and abiding impression on our minds. Canada is a great and inspiring Dominion. You sense at once the excitement and exhilaration of a nation who sees its destiny quite clearly and is determined to achieve it. Though this country has tremendous natural resources, there is no vulgar display or boasting of immense wealth. There is the pride of the craftsman who controls some great machine.

There is, too, an immense patriotism, which shamed some of us by its intensity. In Montreal, my wife and I journeyed to the top of Mount Royal. This is the largest inland port in the world, and the sight of its skyscrapers, its acres of docks, the armada of shipping coming up and down the mighty St. Lawrence, is in itself an unforgettable picture; but the abiding memory for my wife and me of this visit to Montreal is an inscription on a granite cairn on the highest point of Mount Royal. It says simply "This memorial is erected to commemorate the visit of His Majesty King George the Sixth, Monarch of this Land, and of his Queen, Elizabeth, 1939." The ringing challenge of that phrase, "Monarch of this Land," shows the love and devotion which Canada bears to Great Britain.

This spirit is equally evident in Quebec, the Gateway of Canada, with its quaint old French streets and squares, its delightful restaurants; in Ottawa, that proud and lovely city; and in Toronto, with its fine

universities, and its modern planning.

I was privileged to visit Queen's University in Toronto, and meet the noted Canadian statesman, Mr. Vincent Massey, whose family benefactions to this university run into millions of dollars.

We enjoyed every minute of our stay. We worked hard and we played hard, and at the end of three weeks we were tired physically, though we were stimulated mentally. Our Canadian hosts had foreseen that this might happen, and so the whole party was transported to Royal Muskoka, deep in the glorious lake scenery of Ontario, where we spent four delightful carefree days. But even here we experienced something which shows the spirit of the new generation of Canadians. All the chambermaids, the waiters, the porters, and, indeed, all the staff, excepting executive heads, were university students, who were thus earning in their holidays money with which to pay their fees when terms restarted.

I did not forget my St. Dunstan's colleagues in these travels. How could I when at the head of the conference was Colonel the Honourable J. J. Astor, so long a faithful member of St. Dunstan's Council, and Mr. Alan Pitt Robbins, was also a distinguished member of that company. In Toronto I met Colonel Eddie Baker and his charming wife, and with them I visited Pearson Hall, the headquarters of St. Dunstan's in Canada, and there met many members of our brotherhood.

The tradition of service to the war-blinded is as alive in Canada as it is at our own headquarters. Colonel Baker had just returned from a visit to the Maritime Provinces, a round journey of 2,000 miles by air, and when, later in New York, I met Mr. Allen, head of the American Foundation for the Blind, he was the very next day after our meeting joining up with Col. Baker for a visit to the west coast, another 4,000 miles round trip.

In Canada, Col. Baker looks after the civilian blind as well as the war-blinded, and is in touch with every community throughout the length and breadth of Canada.

I have not the space to deal with the many interesting places we visited. I can only say that our Canadian hosts saw to it that, in our three weeks as their guests, we should gather, in that brief time, as much knowledge as we could of their inheritance.

Once, when getting out of a coach in Toronto, I was helped most ably by the driver. I thanked him and back came the friendly "You're welcome," and he added "I am proud to be of service to you. I am used to it because my grandfather was blinded in the Boer War, and, as a lad, it was my joy to help him."

So the impression will always remain with me of a vigorous, forward-marching people, who yet find time to be gracious, kindly and courteous, and make you feel all the time that "You're welcome."

★ ★ ★

Mr. Alan Pitt Robbins, News Editor of *The Times*, writes:—

It was my privilege to visit Canada in June and July to attend the Imperial Press Conference. The news that I am a Governor of St. Dunstan's had preceded me and led to one very delightful experience. I had promised to address a luncheon of the Empire Club of Canada, at Toronto. When I arrived the Chairman informed me that as a gesture of their appreciation of the work which St. Dunstan's is doing it had been arranged that one table should be placed at the disposal of the Canadian Institute for the Blind, and the group at that table gave me a particularly warm welcome. They were under the care of Captain Woodcock, and they were a grand bunch of men. They had all been to St. Dunstan's and I was delighted that, at the end of lunch, I was able to spend about twenty minutes with them talking about their life in London. Needless to say they were vociferous in their appreciation of the kindness and the skilled attention which they had received in England, and one of them delighted me particularly when he said "I never expected that I should have a chance to meet a personal friend of Sir Ian," and then he paused for a moment as to the right form of address, and added "and Chips." Of the happy party I met that June afternoon one stands out very clearly. He greeted me with the remark "You will never forget my name. It is just D I E S, plain Bill Dies . . . but he never does." His cheerful personality dominated the gathering. He insisted that many St. Dunstaners in England would still remember him. If any of them read this issue of the REVIEW this is to let them know that Bill Dies is still flourishing and is a walking advertisement for St. Dunstan's.

From Mrs. Argyle

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the St. Dunstaners and their families in my old area for the lovely presents—a shooting stick and a leather suitcase—you gave me at the Leicester Reunion on August 11th, and to tell those who were unfortunately not able to be present that day of the pleasure your gifts have brought me.

I was delighted to be among so many old friends on this happy occasion, and I was deeply touched not only by the kind words of Dennis Pettitt and Ernie Woofenden at the little presentation ceremony, but also by the many good wishes and messages of affection received from all sides.

The gifts themselves will be a constant reminder of the many happy years spent with St. Dunstan's. I thank you all most warmly and give you my very best wishes for the future.

BESSIE ARGYLE.

For Wives Only

We recently invited St. Dunstaners' wives to pass on any tips which they had found useful in helping their husbands and themselves. Here are the first:—

1. Always keep hubby's clothing, etc., in fact, everything he uses, separately from the rest of the household, then he can help himself without troubling.

2. Clean all spots off his walking-out suits. These will appear no matter how careful he is.

3. When changing furniture around in the room *tell him*, and so avoid barked shins and unprintable words.

4. A tin tray by the side of the bed for a smoking husband. This can be easily lifted on to the bed, and so avoid burns on the sheets, etc.

And lastly, if you are going out for the afternoon leaving hubby to make his own tea, place the teapot either in the sink or a bowl; this avoids a puddle on the floor.

After thirty-three years one lives and learns.

Basingstoke. (Mrs.) M. D. CONDON.

Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Cook, Harrow, June 4th; Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Prideaux, West Wickham, June 13th; Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Rogers, Langford, August 4th; Mr. and Mrs. E. H. North, Taunton, August 25th; Mr. and Mrs. W. Coleman, Carshalton, September 6th.

Talking Book Library

Astronomic August

This holiday month has broken all records for its mass of new releases. There are 12 new books, so I'll dive straight in.

Robert Gladwell read the first three.

"The Causeway," by W. Lear, is a romance concerning a youngish Lancashire schoolmaster of poor family who works in London and lodges in a vicarage. The vicar, three parts crackers, and his daughter, an angel, make a humorous background to the drab hero's very ordinary progress. Just a readable, everyday yarn, no frills or thrills.

"When the Wind blows," by C. Hare, is an orchestral 'Who done it?' with a rather complicated legal motive. The inconvenience of having the soloist strangled, just before her appearance, alarmed, as might be expected, the members of a provincial orchestral society. A short and quite interesting thriller.

"Faithful Company," by Frank Swinerton, concerns a publishing house run by a father and son of strange inhibitions and unpleasant characteristics. Their frustrated young editor is the main character, and he has a busy time looking for a new job and getting rid of a miserable spouse. Horrible, funny, and delightfully written.

The next two Joseph McLeod read.

"The Stricken Deer," by Lord David Cecil, gives the detailed life of William Cowper, the poet, who must have had a terrible life, wondering all the time when his next spell of insanity would come. However, he managed to do some fine writing between whiles. The author writes beautifully and loves his 18th century poets dearly, but I cannot recommend this book to general readers.

"The Bride of Lammermoor," by Sir Walter Scott, is a tragedy at whose climax even I could not raise a laugh. Parental suppression of a love match has an astoundingly tragic result in the days of arranged marriages. The scene is set in 18th century Scotland. Read on!

Eric Gillett was the reader of the next two.

"Cry, the beloved Country," by A. Paton, is not a pastoral fantasy but an extremely interesting account of relations between white and black in South Africa, and in the form of a novel, groans at the complexities of the colour problem. Good,

interesting reading for all—the pick of the bunch!

“Family Roundabout,” by Richmal Crompton, is a quiet domestic novel of two families. The volume is undoubtedly a woman's book. I fail to enthuse!

“The Sky and the Forest,” by C. S. Forrester, reader Arthur Bush, strikes me as the most unusual book of the month. Equatorial Africa in the days of Arab slave traders and the extension of the Belgian Congo. The story is that of a simple native chief who falls eventually to the march of progress, but before succumbing he enjoys a dazzling and adventurous career. Absorbing and out of the ordinary!

“Kilvert's Diary,” by F. Kilvert, reader Duncan Carse, is exactly what the title states. Kilvert was a last century country parson and the book is the echo of a slower, less complicated age. Vital interest seemed lacking to me.

“Trevannion,” by L. A. G. Strong, reader John Marsh, has a sinister background but for the main part it is a gay tale of a bevy of country town characters who provide great amusement, including three ringside commentaries of local boxing. Good!

“Joy and Josephine,” by Monica Dickens, reader Jean Metcalfe, can only be described as a dear little story, unless, of course, one dislikes children and their antics. A little orphan girl of doubtful identity is adopted by a grocer's wife and her growing up is quite a frolic. Good reading and very human!

“The Elusive Pimpernel,” by Baroness Orczy, reader Alvar Lidell, is too well known generally for my comments, but in case that is not so, I can say “Gad, sir, how exciting!” “NELSON.”

Blackpool Notes

In spite of the inclemency of the weather during the summer (months), we have had the most delightful outings, including a return journey via Morecambe and its famous illuminations, and although the Fylde cannot vie with the famous Sussex fortnight, we had one happy day at Haydock Park on August 17th, in spite of not-so-full pockets of the race fiends.

On July 14th a small party joined in the British Legion Parade to the opening of the new Club in Springfield Road. We now have an open invitation to the Club, so will Legionnaires please note. E. D. L.

The Braille Review

A number of items which it has not been possible to include in the Braille “Review,” owing to the lateness of their arrival will be printed in the Braille “Review” next month.

The Race Question

The canter in St. Dunstan's coach from Ovingdean to Lewes or Brighton race track is a warming-up introduction to thudding hooves, noisy, colourful panorama and, surely, to the full gamut of the human emotions—or nearly so. If you suffer from scruples there is no need to bet, jamb yourself into the crowd in the stand and bend a willing war to the voices around. You will get something from life that no vaudeville could offer. Here are a few that came my way recently. Rass Prince Monolulu gave us his old buck-and-wing greeting, and two winners! The verse-answer on his race-sheet started a discussion as to whether the Poet Laureate of Queen 'Bess's time received a civil pension of one hundred guineas and a sac of butt, or one hundred guineas and a bag o' soot. We accepted this Stygian topic as a lucky omen and betted on Black Rapscaillon. There was no sequel, so we decided that it must have been one hundred guineas and a bag o' soot. The general complaint was that there were too few runners. We had the solution; suggesting that racehorses be sold on the hire-purchase system. This was vetoed on the count that there would be too much racehorse and not enough track. An extinguished gentleman loomed into view, and offered us the names of four winners for a shilling. In response we guaranteed to him the names of the first three of all six races, and tendered the mid-day paper.

In the last race we backed Snailer, and he came down the track as though it was Judgment Day and he was the last one up. When Sisters Hand, Margo, Morgan, Woods, Fletcher and Leeson collected our winnings, they were bowed under its weight. Thus, a few winners, a few losers, a company of chummy men and sisters, picnic lunches, a gasp, a laugh, a lament, were the ingredients of a really enjoyable day. Southampton. W. E. BROOKES.

Grandfathers

P. Sheridan, Glasgow (twins); G. Hadfield, Ottery St. Mary (twin grandsons); R. J. Vine, Ealing; R. Wylie, Bromley; S. L. Ball, Neath; A. Lane, Cardiff.

Young St. Dunstaners

Dudley Woodget, Bournemouth, is now a B.A. of Cambridge, and is taking his Teacher's Diploma.

Mary Duxbury, Oldham, has obtained her Teacher's Diploma at Reading University.

The daughter of G. L. Douglas, of Osterley, has passed, with honours, her Final Teaching Examination to enter London University.

Neil Stewart Macfarlane, Ilford, has passed the first part of his Banking Degree.

Marjorie Shaw, Ashton-in-Makerfield, has gained her A.L.C.M. diploma with 92 marks out of a possible 100. She is 18.

Patrick Tuxford, Redditch, has won a flying scholarship awarded by the Government; the scholarship is worth about £150. Pat already has his "A" gliding licence.

Alan Leigh, Warrington, has passed an examination to enter a Secondary Technical School.

Andrew Young, Glasgow, has passed his Finals and is now M.B., Ch.B. He took his degree in the shortest possible time. This means that both Mary and Andrew, son and daughter of our late St. Dunstaner, have both qualified as doctors since their father's death.

Fred McAndrew, B.Sc.(Hons.) has been appointed Science Master at De la Salle College, St. Helier, Jersey. This is his first appointment after his degree course at Bristol University. He was a Flying Officer for six years.

James Ashe, Lancing, has passed his B.Sc. degree.

George Fallowfield, junior, has won yet another Challenge Cup. It was for the longest flight with his diesel-engine model plane.

Jacqueline Scrimgour (Middlesbrough) has won a scholarship to the Secondary Grammar School.

Marriages

Billy Allen, Morecambe, on May 27th.
Walter Ronald Watterson, Morecambe, to Miss Jean Jardine.

On July 8th, Jack Clamp, New Bradwell, to Doris Williamson.

On July 15th, Ivy Pearson, Prestwich, to Laurie Downes.

On March 25th, Rosine Maher, Kennington, to Sidney Baker.

John Loveridge, Harrow, on August 19th.

Freida Anderson, Letham, on July 17th, to Walter Dalgity.

Charles Firth, Heswall, on August 12th, to Madeleine Touchon, of Neuchatel.

John Power, Brixton, on August 26th, to Eileen Smith, at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Camberwell.

Gwendoline May Keen, Purton, Wilts., on August 16th, to Harry John May.

Henry Francis Ollington, Earlsfield, on July 15th, to Maisie Howard.

I'm Just Kidding

*For twenty-five years I've been married,
For twenty-five years I've been wed.
For twenty-five years I've been cajoled and harried
Till I've wished I was bloomin' well dead.*

*A woman is just like a rocket,
Her tongue lashes out like a flash,
At night she will go through your pocket
And pinch all your small petty cash.
She'll sit at the table dining alone
And when for a square meal you're pining,
She'll give you an Oxo, then toss a fish bone—
On the mat with the cat you are dining.*

*But now, you blind guys. I must alter my tone,
I'm feeling a positive wreck,
No longer I feel I am sitting alone,
I feel a soft breath at my neck.*

*Alas, it's my wife, she has entered the room,
In manner she sounds most forbidding.*

*In one hand the dustpan, the other a broom,
"Don't swipe, dear, I'm only just kidding."*

*Ah, now she has gone, the danger's now past,
I'll be telling you just what I think.*

*A Nero am I, I'm game to the last,
These womenfolk drive you to drink,
You go to the local, finances are chronic,
It is then that she upholds your fear,
"Yes, sweetie pie, I'll have gins and tonic"
And you have to have one small beer.*

*Now I'll stop kidding and tell you the truth,
The things that I've said are inane,
Could I but recall the days of my youth,
Why, I'd wed the same lass again.*

*And if there's going to be a life hereafter,
And somehow I am sure there's going to be,
I'd pray that angel wings would gently waft her,
To a place beside me in that Holy See.*

To all you sweet females, St. Dunstaners' wives,

*With honour blind hubbies address you,
You are our helpmates, the light of our lives,
You're wizard, you're super, God bless you.*

E. H. NORTH, Taunton.

The Taximen's Outing

On Friday, July 14th, nearly sixty St. Dunstaners and their escorts from the London area participated in a most enjoyable outing to Worthing, arranged by the North London Taxi Trade Benevolent Association.

About thirty taxis assembled at 9 a.m. outside Headquarters, each driver taking two couples under his wing. The convoy soon began threading its way out of London to the open country, and after a pleasant drive stopped at the Sussex village of Lowfield Heath for very welcome "elevenses," kindly provided by the local Women's Institute. The taxis eventually arrived at Worthing in time for a delicious lunch and everybody was given a warm welcome by the Mayor of Worthing, who was present. After speeches by the Mayor and Mr. Louis Levy, the Honorary Chairman of the North London Taxi Trade Benevolent Association, our old friend, Mr. Bert Crabtree, voiced the thanks of all St. Dunstaners present for all the kindness and thought which had made the outing possible, and Mrs. Rhodes spoke on behalf of the wives.

During the afternoon, St. Dunstaners, escorts and drivers, were able to wander in individual groups along the promenade and shore, but returned for a grand tea at the Congregational Hall before boarding the taxis once more for the homeward journey. Lowfield Heath was again a half-way halt for refreshments, with some of the hosts entertaining the party in a merry, musical fashion. The convoy dispersed at Coulsdon in order that each driver could take his charges their several ways, but before this happened Mr. Levy personally said goodbye to everyone present, and this was greatly appreciated.

It was without doubt a grand day—even the weather was in our favour—and our warm thanks are due to Mr. Levy, his Committee and all the drivers for their great friendliness and ever-watchful attention to our every need.

Marriages

GOULD—WILLIAMS—On July 22nd, Eileen Gould, late of East Ham, and now of Ilford, to Mr. Dennis Williams.

HOPKINS—On August 5th, N. Hopkins, of Cardiff, whose bride is a physiotherapist in the hospital where he himself works.

Mrs. Margaret Lloyd

St. Dunstaners will learn with the deepest regret of the death of Mrs. Margaret Lloyd, mother of Sister Lloyd, at the age of 100 years and eight months. In spite of her great age, Mrs. Lloyd retained almost to the last her great interest in everything around her, but for St. Dunstan's men especially she had a very warm affection.

Paul Nuyens represented St. Dunstaners at a Service which was held at All Saints' Church, Putney Lower Common. The funeral took place in Wales.

Mr. W. H. Morrison

St. Dunstaners of the First War particularly will hear with deep regret of the death of "Bill" Morrison, senior car driver to St. Dunstan's for many years. Mr. Morrison was chauffeur to Sir Arthur Pearson before he entered St. Dunstan's service in April, 1917. For the last five or six years of his time with us he was chief driver at Raglan Street. He retired in October, 1934, having reached the age limit.

The cremation took place at Golders Green Crematorium on August 17th, and St. Dunstan's was represented by Drummer Downs and Mr. T. Watson, D.C.M.

Births

CHADWICK.—On July 28th, to the wife of Clifford Chadwick, of Preston, a daughter—Margaret Mary.

GREEN.—On August 15th, to the wife of B. Green, of Upper Portslade, a daughter—Diana Mary.

MARTIN.—On July 24th, to the wife of A. W. Martin, of Peacehaven, a son—Allan Arthur.

NOLDE.—On July 21st, to the wife of N. F. Nolde, of Leytonstone, a daughter—Beryl Ann.

O'SULLIVAN.—On August 11th, to the wife of D. F. O'Sullivan, of Kennington, a daughter—Mary Josephine.

SOUTHALL.—On July 10th, to the wife of S. Southall, of Smethwick, a son—Colin John.

SPENCER.—On August 11th, to the wife of P. Spencer, of Weston-super-Mare, a daughter—Rosemary Jane.

Death

JORDAN.—Our deep sympathy goes out to G. M. Jordan, of Cardiff, who lost his wife on September 10th.

“In Memory”

Private John Robinson, *Royal Army Medical Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of J. Robinson, of Wortley, Leeds.

He came to us in 1919 and was trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker. At one time he had a business but of late he had taken over a poultry farm so that he might have the outdoor occupation which his health needed.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was sent for the funeral, which was attended by Mrs. Dunphy.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

Private Herbert Martindale, *1st Garrison Battalion, Manchester*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. Martindale, of Moreton, Cheshire.

He served with his regiment from November, 1914, until November, 1919, but although his sight was severely damaged in that war, he did not come to St. Dunstan's until May, 1941. During practically the whole of his time with us he suffered greatly, but with a fine courage. He was able only to do very light work, and was devotedly nursed by Mrs. Martindale for a long time. He died at his home on July 13th.

At the funeral were present his St. Dunstan's friends of the Liverpool Club, Messrs. Jackson (chairman), Blakeley, Wright, Shaylor, Firth, Power and Owen; Matron Vaughan Davies, and Miss Doel, Welfare Visitor. The floral tributes included wreaths from Sir Ian Fraser, his comrades at the Blackpool Home, and from members of the Liverpool Club.

We extend our deep sympathy to Mrs. Martindale and her two sons.

Private John Thomas Rouse, *Royal Army Service Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of J. T. Rouse, a permanent resident of our Brighton Home.

After his service in the first Great War, he came to us in September, 1919. He trained as a mat-maker and carried on with this work for a considerable time. For many years, however, he had suffered ill-health and had been in and out of our Homes many times. He was taken very ill at Brighton shortly before Christmas and went into the Sick Ward at Ovingdean. Pneumonia intervened from which he never really recovered. He was buried in St. Dunstan's plot in the Brighton Cemetery.

A poppy wreath was sent from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his relatives.

Private Thomas Pritchard Johnson, *17th Manchester Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of T. P. Johnson, of Ashton-under-Lyne.

Enlisting in September, 1914, he was wounded in July, 1916, and came to us the same month. He was trained as a mat-maker but indifferent health made him practically an invalid for many years.

A wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral.

To his wife and family our sincere sympathy is extended.

Private Thomas E. Skelly, *2nd West Riding Regt.*

With deep regret we record the death of T. E. Skelly, of Batley.

He served with his regiment from December, 1915, until June, 1917. He was wounded at Fampaux in April, 1917, and became a St. Dunstan's two months later. He trained as a boot repairer but for a great number of years his health had been poor and life had to be taken easily. His great interest was his children's careers and he lived, as he wished, to see them all launched for the future. His death occurred very suddenly on June 30th.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was sent for the funeral.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Skelly and her family.

Private George Hills, *Royal Army Service Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of another of our "permanent" family, George Hills. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1940 and trained as a netter, but a short while ago he entered Ovingdean, as he was quite alone, having no relatives.

He died suddenly on August 12th. He was seventy-four years old.

Wreaths from Sir Ian and his Brighton friends were among the flowers at the funeral.

Sergeant John Henry Warren, *8th Cheshire Regt.*

We record with deep regret the death of J. H. Warren, of Macclesfield, which occurred suddenly at Brighton on June 24th.

He served from August 22nd, 1914, until August, 1917, in which month he came to St. Dunstan's, after being wounded the previous February at Kut. He was trained in poultry farming and mat-making, but for some years he was not able to undertake much work owing to illness. His wife has also been ill and he was admitted to Ovingdean. His daughter was on holiday with him, prior to taking him home, when he collapsed and died at Brighton.

Burial took place at his home.; our poppy wreath was among the many flowers.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and children.

Private William James Nicholls, *2nd Royal Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of W. J. Nicholls, of Harringay.

He had served with his regiment until 1916, and a year later was blinded through an explosion when working on munitions. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1917, where he trained in basket-making.

He had come to Ovingdean for a holiday and he died very suddenly there on August 6th. He was sixty-five.

He leaves a wife and grown-up family to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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"Fear Worse Than Blindness"

SIR Ian and Lady Fraser attended the Newcastle Reunion on August 21st. Although parts of Sir Ian's speech were familiar to blind people and were addressed to a wider public, we think that what he said may be of interest to our readers, and particularly to those many St. Dunstaners who take part in public affairs or who themselves make speeches about our problems from time to time. We accordingly print the following extracts from a report of the speech.

"Blindness is a very great handicap, for the sense of sight is man's most useful instrument. But it is not the most disabling of all handicaps. Fear, for example, is worse. Fear of death, or, more serious still, fear of life, is much more disastrous to peace of mind and to normal living. Those whose eyes are bad and who think that they may become blind may be encouraged by the thought that the fear of blindness is worse than blindness itself.

"Fortunately the world is full of kind people, foremost amongst whom I put the average blind man's wife, but it is not always convenient to use somebody else's eyes, and so you must learn to substitute other senses for that of sight. Many blind men may walk about alone with remarkable facility, not only at home or in the garden but also in the streets, going to and from their work, or to the club or the post office, or occasionally the local pub. They hear their way, occasionally correcting an angle or a distance by the touch of a walking stick. Many learn to read with their fingers and to write by means of braille or the typewriter. And there are many inventions which mitigate the handicap of blindness.

"Provided that a man has the spirit to conquer, and most have, and provided that he can be given adequate training and a proper settlement in a suitable job, there is a life full of activity and contentment for most.

"St. Dunstan's, so far as England and Wales and the rest of the world is concerned, and the Scottish National Institution for the War-blinded, Edinburgh, have between them done a job which has not been undertaken by any other organisation in the world. None has covered so completely the problem of rehabilitation and life-long care of a whole class of people in the community. St. Dunstan's or its branches or associates in the Mother Country, in the Northern Kingdom, and throughout the British Commonwealth, have cared for every ex-Serviceman and a few women who have been blinded in the two world wars, or during the years between. Every one has been given the best training that experience can suggest and money can buy. Every one has been provided with a gainful occupation to pass the time if wounds or ill-health forbid a more strenuous life. Every one has been settled in a home and a job where this is not forbidden by health or circumstance. Every widow and every orphan has been treated as a member of our great family. There

is no greater brotherhood of blind men and women in the world, and there is no organisation that has undertaken its task so fully and so successfully. The British public have subscribed for this great work voluntarily, and no grants have been asked for or received from the Government. This is not a complaint; indeed, we are glad that we have not been taken over under the National Health Service, for St. Dunstan's is not a hospital in the ordinary sense, and we have no doubt whatever that in the freedom of a voluntary agency we are able to give more individual attention and a greater diversity of help than would be possible under any set of State rules."

Speaking of aids for the blind, Sir Ian said that the Talking Book was developing rapidly, and they were adding a new volume to the Library every week. These books included literature of all kinds for all tastes; reading was done by B.B.C. announcers, and it was of the greatest value to some thousands of blind people, including not only soldiers, sailors and airmen, but also the civilian blind, for the Talking Book project was the joint concern of the National Institute for the Blind and St. Dunstan's. They were now engaged in research work to discover whether magnetic tape might not be better than disc records for their Library. If this experiment bore fruit, a whole book would be recorded in one cassette which would run for ten to fifteen hours.

London Reunion Dance

St. Dunstaners in the London Area are reminded that the London Reunion Dance will be held on Wednesday, November 29th, from 7.30 to 11 p.m., and that application for tickets should be made to Mr. Mackay at Headquarters as soon as possible, and in any case not later than *Monday, November 6th*. One ticket will admit a St. Dunstaner and one escort (it is regretted that children under sixteen cannot be included).

The College Reunion

We are sorry the wrong date for this was given previously. It is on Saturday, November 25th.

As it is not an official St. Dunstan's Reunion, anyone requiring tickets must apply at once in order that final arrangements may be made. Applications should reach Miss Miller as soon as possible.

The rendezvous and all details will be sent by letter as soon as the names of those wishing to come are known. They will also be published in the November REVIEW. The Committee is delighted to have received quite a good number of applications already.

Tickets, 10s. 6d. each person, from Miss Miller, Quince Tree Cottage, Bolney, Sussex.

Placements

J. Hill, Ash Green, Surrey, as a telephonist with Messrs. Marsh & Ferriman, Worthing; A. G. Emerson as a shop-keeper, at Redfield, Bristol.

Exhibition for the Blind

Last year the Science Museum at South Kensington, as an experiment, held a Display of Exhibits and Models specially arranged for blind people. The experiment was so successful that it has been decided to stage a further and more ambitious exhibition from Saturday, November 11th, to Sunday, December 10th, inclusive.

The display will not be open to the general public, and will be staged in Gallery 1—to the right of the main entrance, Exhibition Road—thus avoiding the use of the staircase or lift.

Whenever possible, individuals and small parties of, say, four or five, with escorts, should give two or three days' notice so that a member of the Museum staff may be available to offer advice and assistance. This does not mean, however, that unbooked visits would be unwelcome, but visitors would risk the possibility of finding the Exhibition somewhat crowded.

The exhibits and models will be arranged on tables with a shortened version in braille of the standard printed label, a copy of which will also be supplied so that escorts may read the fuller information to their friends.

The Museum is open free, from 10 a.m. to 6.0 p.m., on weekdays, and 2.30 p.m. to 6.0 p.m. on Sundays.

Grandfather

W. McCarthy, Stretford, near Manchester, to twins. (Twins for the third time in the family.)

London Club Notes

On October 2nd the London Club had the first of a series of Talks. The subject was "Britain's Larder," and the speaker Lt. Commdr. J. F. Bredin, of the Central Office of Information. Details of forthcoming talks are given below. They give great scope for discussion; we hope that fellows will turn up in strong numbers.

The Highgate Harriers All Walking Meeting, held at the Parliament Hill Fields Track on September 23rd, in aid of St. Dunstan's, was a great success, attracting 244 entries. Nine St. Dunstaners were among the starters. The handicap race went to S. Tutton who, with an allowance of five minutes, set off at a good pace and was never headed. His walking and pace showed a remarkable improvement. Good luck Stan! In the absence of T. Gaygan, who was convalescing, A. Brown won the fastest time medal with an actual of 18.19. C. Williamson, walking for the first time since his sojourn in hospital, showed great tenacity in finishing in good time.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge.—We opened our Club activities with our usual Bridge Drive. This was a great success, forty people being present. It was won by L. Douglas, with J. Muir second and A. Wiltshire third. Our next treat was our annual trip to Harrogate, which was voted one of the best we have ever had. Our first success was coming in third, in open competition, in a company of sixteen tables. We then had our usual round of matches at different clubs. Some we won, some we lost, but I don't think anybody worried a great deal. We were delighted to have Blodwyn Simon with us this time. We finished up this wonderful week with a Bridge Drive and entertained some eighty people—a very gratifying result of our visit. Miss Blodwyn Simon presented the prizes.

The month ended with a match against the Surrey Docks team, who gave us a good game and managed to win in the end by two thousand and sixty.

Indoor Section.—Here are the details of the series of Talks mentioned above. They will take place in the Staff Canteen at Headquarters, at 7.30 p.m.

Friday, November 24th—"Athletics in Britain," by Mr. Jack Crump, Hon. Sec., British Amateur Athletic Board.

Friday, December 8th—"What is the British Council?" by Mr. Paul Reed, Information Dept., The British Council.

Friday, December 29th—"Who Pays the Taxes?" by Mr. Hugo O'Hear (Aims of Industry Speakers' Bureau).

A **Grand Dance** will be held at the Chelsea Town Hall on December 18th. All members are cordially invited. Tickets can be obtained by post, free of charge, or from the Club now. Each member will be allowed to bring one friend.

Our Charlie Brampton made a score of 103 at whist last month—a record for the London Club. It would be interesting to know if this has been attained by any other club or member.

Our Darts Club is going from strength to strength, with challenges from all quarters. Any member interested, please let me know. We have some real good "do's."

TINY FLEMING.

Outdoor Section.—The next Walking race will be on November 18th, from Bedford College, starting at 2.30 p.m., and the distance 5 miles. All entries and enquiries to T. Gaygan or Jack Dawkins.

Highgate Harriers 2 Miles Invitation Walk, September 23rd:—

R.W.A. Medals—1st, A. Brown; 2nd, W. Miller; 3rd, P. Cryan.

Handicap Prizes—1st, S. Tutton; 2nd, C. Stafford; 3rd, W. T. Scott.

Institute of Magicians.—On Monday, September 11th, St. Dunstan's magicians had an At Home and gave a short show. First to appear was Chas. Luker, with the sympathetic silks, soft soap, and the enchanted vase. Alf Wiltshire, assisted by his wife, had five cards chosen by one of the sighted escorts, who put them in his pocket. Mrs. Wiltshire then named them one by one absolutely correctly. Bruce Ingrey presented the apparently empty wonder box, from which he produced many silks, and Percy Ashton gave two card effects, Out of this World, and the Four Aces. A 4-ace routine in the form of labels from cigarette cartons, and the sand frame, were presented by Smudger Smith to complete the St. Dunstan's boys' efforts.

At the request of the St. Dunstaners, their tutors—F. A. Willis, Ethelbertine and Madam Zoma—also performed. Madam Zoma thanked everyone for a most enjoyable evening.

F. A. WILLIS.

Birmingham Club Notes

Craft Competition.—September was a very full month for us all. On Sunday, the 10th, members brought in their entries. A garden section included prize-winning gladioli and tomatoes from P. Cashmore. The gladioli bloomed for three weeks. All entries were judged by a group of Red Cross friends. Many articles not for competition were also given by members or their wives. Token prizes only were awarded.

Rugs 1st, T. O'Connor.
E. Mills.

Baskets 1st, J. Dennick.
2nd, J. New.

Bags 1st, J. New.
2nd, H. Allsop.
3rd, T. North.

Trays 1st, J. New.
2nd, L. Fensome.

Miscellaneous—L. Fensome.

All these articles will be on sale on October 21st, on a St. Dunstan's Stall at the Red Cross Bring and Buy Sale—our members giving all their competition entries. Added to these will be a wonderful supply of similar articles made by St. Dunstaners elsewhere. This fine effort is a great tribute to St. Dunstan's generosity and provides even a greater link of friendship with Birmingham Red Cross workers.

Swimming Gala.—On Saturday, September 16th, the Second Annual Swimming Gala was held at the Bournville Men's Baths, by courtesy of Messrs. Cadbury Bros. Works Council. It was a most encouraging second effort and we were thrilled to receive entries from teams from Liverpool and the North, the East Midlands, London and Birmingham. We shan't be satisfied until we have the added pleasure of a Brighton team. There was excellent competition, and a really high standard displayed. A delightful "Bournville" tea for competitors, stewards, judges and visitors was presided over by Mrs. Spurway, who awarded the cups and prizes. The Birmingham St. Dunstan's Challenge Cup went to the East Midland Team with 27 points, making Mrs. King very proud, and the T.B. Individual Championship Cup to G. Stanley (Market Harborough). Congratulations from our Club!

Unfortunately a rush for cars and trains was inevitable, so the time for chatting was brought to a minimum. May we use this opportunity of thanking those who supported us so generously, and the Club secretaries and escorts?

Next year the entries will be far more numerous, we expect. We shall always hold the Gala on the second or third Saturday in September, so we hope this date can be left free from fixtures.

Here are the rest of the results:—

One length T.B. :

1st, G. Stanley (East Midland).
2nd, A. Phillips (London).
3rd, W. Thornton (Birmingham).

One length First War :

1st, S. A. Chambers.

One length Backstroke :

1st, G. Stanley (East Midland).
2nd, R. Craddock (Warrington, for Liverpool).
3rd, W. Thornton (Birmingham).

One length Style Competition :

1st, C. Stafford (London).
2nd, G. Stanley (East Midland).
3rd, A. Phillips (London).

Plunging :

1st, P. Spencer (Weston-super-Mare, for London), 39ft. 4in.
2nd, A. Phillips (London), 37ft. 2in.
3rd, J. Daly (Liverpool), 34ft. 9in.

Diving :

1st, G. Stanley (East Midland).
2nd, W. Thornton (Birmingham).
3rd, R. Sherriff (East Midland).

Relay Race :

1st, London Team.

Thank you—everybody who came.

P. A. FAIRHEAD.

At Mons

A. E. Snook was at the battle of Mons and in the Retreat. He served from August 16th until he was knocked out by mustard gas at Paschendaele in November, 1917.

For Wives Only

Here is a tip which I find useful for my husband's pullovers. Sew a small button inside the front neck and hubby will always know which is the front.

Mrs. GRANT.

Glossop, Derbyshire.

The Reunions End

August saw the last of the Reunions for 1950. On Saturday, the 19th, Colonel Eric Ball welcomed some fifty St. Dunstaners at the Queen's Hotel, Leeds. Two days later, the Newcastle meeting was held, and at this gathering Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were the guests of honour. Sir Ian was attending various British Legion functions in the north-east. Other welcome guests at Newcastle were Mr. Donald G. Hopewell, and Alderman Mould, representing the British Legion. It was a great regret to everyone that Captain Appleby was unable to be present, owing to a sudden illness, and a message was sent from the gathering wishing him a speedy recovery.

The Glasgow Reunion was held on August 23rd. Among the guests were Mr. Kenneth Fraser, M.B.E., past National Vice-Chairman of the British Legion, Scotland, and Mr. and Mrs. Inglis Pollock. Mr. Pollock represented the Glasgow Advisory Committee, Scottish National Institution for the War-blinded (Newington House).

Brass Sleeve for Walking Stick

The National Institute is now able to supply a brass sleeve to fit on the end of the ordinary white walking stick. Supplies have been obtained to meet the requests of users who found that the ends of the sticks became badly scored as a result of tapping them against curbs, etc. The sleeves are made of 18-gauge brass, the outside diameter being $\frac{3}{4}$ in. and the overall length being 5 inches. Each sleeve is drilled with one hole for fixing, and the cost, complete with screw, is 6d. each. Customers ordering should quote Catalogue No. 9456.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," October, 1920:—

"On September 27th, Mr. R. C. Raffé, a lecturer at the Northern Polytechnic, came to St. Dunstan's and gave an address on 'How Wireless Telegraphy Works,' in which he explained the wireless system, and afterwards showed and explained some instruments to a few specially interested men.

"On Monday, October 4th, the lecturer was Sir Arthur Pearson, who came by special request, to give us an account of the management and production of a newspaper."

From All Quarters

Alan Reynolds, of Shrewsbury, is a telephonist by profession, but he has a most successful side-line. He and his wife have a miniature sweet-factory at the back of his house, where they make over forty varieties of sweets and toffees. The necessary machinery has been installed and Alan can carry out practically all the processes himself. Some day he hopes to sell wholesale as well as retail. The Welfare Department recommends his samples!

★ ★ ★

St. Dunstaners R. Coupland and George Allen are fish traders at Hull Fish Docks and the house magazine of Messrs. W. and T. Avery, Ltd., weighing machine manufacturers, recently had a full page story about them, with two excellent photographs. The scales they use are standard ones of 5 cwt. capacity. At first their weighing operations were carried out quite accurately by feeling the graduations on the steelyard; more recently, Avery mechanics have co-operated by producing a notch and spring device which makes their tasks even easier.

★ ★ ★

Bob Paterson, of Thirsk, was out with his dog, Marshall, the other day when they passed some electricians searching unsuccessfully for a leak in an underground cable. A little further on the dog stopped dead. Our St. Dunstaner gave the word "Forward," but Marshall would not move, so his master stooped down to see what was wrong. There was a crackling noise below the surface of the road. He went back and brought the workmen to the spot. Marshall had found the leak.

★ ★ ★

David Ferguson, one of our Canadian St. Dunstaners, with Patricia, his wife, have been passing through this country after a visit to the battlefields of Normandy, where David was blinded. They have travelled by tandem and on Saturday, September 30th, they were interviewed by John Ellison in "In Town To-night."

★ ★ ★

ST. BERNARD DOG wanted.—Offers or suggestions would be welcomed by C. Wilkinson, 17 Claremont Avenue, Beverley High Road, Hull.

The Physiotherapy Conference

More than a hundred physiotherapists met in conference at the Training Centre, Ovingdean, during the week-end of September 8th. The Conference unanimously supported a resolution calling for higher salaries for their members working in hospitals, and also resolved "that private practice in physiotherapy, massage, etc., meets an important public need, especially for men engaged in sedentary professional work, and athletes, and that it should be encouraged by the Ministry of Health."

Speaking at a luncheon which preceded the Conference, Sir Ian Fraser said there were now 119 St. Dunstan's physiotherapists in the United Kingdom. Sixty-eight of these were blinded in the first world war and the balance were young men. Two-thirds were engaged in private practice.

Other speakers included the Mayor of Brighton (Ald. S. Davey, J.P.), Mr. S. C. Tarry, chairman of the Physiotherapy Advisory Committee (who presided over the Conference), Dr. C. R. Woodard, Mr. Fred Gabey (the former Olympic hurdler), Mr. J. D. Calder, Miss D. A. Pain, and Major Basil Curtis, Public Relations Officer.

One of the features of this year's Conference was a special manipulations course and demonstration by Mr. T. G. Roden. There was also a display and demonstration of modern equipment by Mr. Eastwood, the Southern representative of the Medical Supply Association, a demonstration of Plaster-of-Paris Technique by Miss Martin, Superintendent Physiotherapist at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, and a demonstration of portable Gymnasium and Remedial Apparatus by Mrs. Guthrie Smith.

At the main Conference Meeting, which was presided over by Sir Ian Fraser, the guest speaker was Dr. C. R. Woodard, whose subject was "Physiotherapy and the treatment of Athletic Injuries." Dr. Woodard, who has treated some 10,000 athletes in four years, told the Conference, "You have a tremendous job to do, and I am especially glad to see that many of you are now being recognised by our athletic organisations, to their considerable advantage."

Sir Ian Fraser told the meeting that thirteen St. Dunstaners had completed their physiotherapy training during the year; one had gone to South Africa, another to New

Zealand, while a further fifteen were now in training. Sir Ian paid tribute to the services rendered by Miss Goole, as secretary of the Advisory Committee, and by Mr. Ronald Priestley, the Head of the Physiotherapy Department at St. Dunstan's. He also complimented Mr. Tarry for his work in his capacity of Chairman of the Physiotherapy Advisory Committee.

Other speakers included Mr. C. J. R. Fawcett and Mr. J. D. Calder. There followed the election of the Advisory Committee for the following year, which resulted as follows: Mr. S. C. Tarry (re-elected chairman), Messrs. M. Burns, J. D. Calder, G. Cock, C. W. W. Cooper, C. J. R. Fawcett, A. Fisher, L. Howell, W. G. Morris, B. Purcell, W. T. Scott, and N. McLeod Steel.

The B.B.C.'s Radio Newsreel of Saturday, September 9th, included an excellent report of the Conference, which was taking place that week-end.

Black Magic

Voyaging from England to South Africa, I played cards in the saloon with the other passengers during the evenings. A Lascar bar-steward hovered about in the lounge ministering to our need of refreshment. Apparently, after my first night's play, he went back to the crews' quarters and told of this mysterious person, whom they knew to be blind and yet, by some form of witchcraft, was able to see playing cards and take an animated interest in the game, just like the other players. The fact that I felt the braille markings had evidently escaped the bar-steward's notice, and even when I explained this phenomena, my "feat" remained a source of great wonderment. I cannot imagine what consternation would have been caused had I been a member of St. Dunstan's Institute of Magicians.

JAMES ELLIS.

Recommended

Mrs. Harding, wife of Bill Harding, of Finsbury Park, can recommend some excellent kennels which board dogs in their owners' absence. A car collects and returns the dogs and special care is promised for St. Dunstaners' dogs. The address is Hoxey Kennels, Oak Grange, West Clendon, Surrey.

Talking Book Library

Stupendous September

The spate of releases has continued this month and I was surprised to find nine more books to talk about after coping with a dozen last month. However, here goes.

"The Gathering Storm," by Winston S. Churchill, reader Duncan Carse, is the opening volume of "The Second World War," in which Mr. Churchill covers the ground between the wars. To those who would say that it is easy to be wise after the event, I reply "Hark back to the early thirties and remember the then-called war-monger as the voice crying in a wilderness of political wishful thinking." The volume is pleasantly read and a joy to read.

"Their Finest Hour," by Winston S. Churchill, reader Duncan Carse, is the factual relation of our most critical period during 1940. The Battle of Britain in technicolour!

"Panther's Moon," by V. Canning, reader John Marsh, turns out to be a gripping secret service thriller after first appearing to be an ordinary circus yarn. Well told, well read, and well worth listening to.

"Without my Cloak," by Kate O'Brien, reader Mary O'Farrell, is the story of an Irish family which starts off with a bang, and though the continuation is hum-drum, it manages somehow or other to hold the interest throughout, mainly, I believe, on account of perfect choice of reader.

"Love Among the Ruins," by Angela Thirkell, reader F. P. Bayley, is a further book in this author's series on the lines of Anthony Trollope, in which the Beltons, the Carters, the Deans and other old favourites figure prominently. A country rather than a country setting, and although I can perceive snobbishness, I cannot be sure whether the writing is slightly humorous or entirely satirical. I leave you that point to clear up, but I do not recommend the attempt.

"The Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle," by J. Dixon Carr, reader Norman Shelley, is very interesting and informative. His background of heraldry was hardly conducive to the creating of Sherlock Holmes, but his writings all had a grip on the reader which grip the biographer manages to retain.

"The Flower and the Wheel," by Adrian

Bell, reader Arthur Bush, is a farmer's meditations on farming. The emphasis is on wheat and its growing and getting. He admits a sentimental jolt at the horses' replacement by tractors, but rejoices at the advantages that such replacements give to the agricultural industry. Pleasant reading!

"The Power and the Glory," by G. Green, reader Robin Holmes, is a sordid story of a persecuted priest in Mexico. The priest in question is at his best when attached to the business end of a brandy bottle, but he is the most savoury of a collection of desperate characters. However, there is a readable story in the maze of squalor and fatigue.

"Dominique," by E. Fromentin, reader Alvar Lidell, is, more or less, the autobiography of a country gentleman of Villeneuve. The author infuses into the story great sensitivity and sensibility, which, though now outmoded, were very popular ingredients last century, the date of this tale. Not an exciting morsel for our callous generation.

Au revoir.

"NELSON."

Points from Letters

Jock Muir writes: "There must be many in St. Dunstan's from the last war who were golf players and, like myself, thought that this form of sport was finished for them. I can assure them it is not, and for over fifteen years I got quite a kick out of a round. Of course, it cannot be anything to compete with sighted players, but it is amazing how good we can get, especially in putting. I found in putting if one placed the heel of the left foot into the ball of the right, and then got someone to tinkle the hole with the flag, and then follow the sound with the toe of the left foot, it was possible to get a very good line.

"Take a low grip on the putter and scoop the ball forward as distinct from tapping it, and you will not be far off the hole."

★ ★ ★

"Is there a St. Dunstaner who has a generator and who would like some 25 volt electric light bulbs, for which I have no further use? It seems a pity to throw them away if they would be of use to someone else."—Jack Chappell, Birds Green, Stonards Hill, Epping.

Two Cape Town Reunions

We read, almost with envy, of regular annual reunions of St. Dunstaners in various parts of Britain. Here in South Africa, because of the great distances and the fact that our troops are widely dispersed, it is impossible to arrange such gatherings regularly, so that besides the reunion itself, there is always some special reason for these family gatherings in South Africa. There were two special reasons for these parties, and they were the guests of honour, two St. Dunstaners recently arrived in Cape Town.

A little party was held on the evening of Wednesday, August 16th, for those who could not attend a luncheon the following day. Both functions were, of course, presided over by our old friend and counsellor, Mrs. Chadwick Bates. Mrs. Southwell-Jones represented the Committee, and those present included Mr. and Mrs. Wilf. Helm, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Schemper, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Goosen, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Ellis, Capt. and Mrs. Carr Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Bass.

We were gathered to meet and welcome Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Taylor and Mr. and Mrs. John Verster. Eddie, although of the First World War, is a new St. Dunstaner. His ship had stopped at Cape Town en route for Ovingdean, England, for a period of training for Eddie. John Verster has just returned from England and is now a qualified physiotherapist. John was able to give Eddie all the latest news from Ovingdean. In a little speech, Eddie Taylor thanked St. Dunstan's for all that they had done for him. We all wish Eddie and Mrs. Taylor *bon voyage* and a very happy stay in England, and we wish John and Mrs. Verster every success in their new practice at Somerset West.

Another St. Dunstaner who has just gone on a voyage is Jimmy Crawford. He and Mrs. Crawford are spending a well-earned holiday afloat. They will sail up the east coast as far as Zanzibar, calling at the various ports on the way up. Jimmy and Mrs. Bass went on a similar trip a couple of months ago. They thoroughly enjoyed it and returned much benefited by the ozone.

Another St. Dunstaner whose holiday took him over the waves is Bill Riley. He and Mrs. Riley left Cape Town last month to spend a holiday in England. While on the subject of holidays, we are looking

forward to seeing Tom and Mabs Hart, with their son, Christopher, when they come to spend their holiday at the Cape next month.

Jock and Mrs. Reid, with their daughter, Brenda Rose, returned to Pietermaritzburg a short time ago after spending a few weeks in Cape Town. It was no holiday for Jock, who spent five weeks in hospital. However, it was worth while because we hear that Jock's operation was reasonably successful.

We were sorry to hear that Nils Nilsen and Mr. van Blerk were not well enough to attend either of the little parties.

We are feeling particularly proud of one member of the staff here in the Cape Town office. Miss Leonora Percy entered the big typewriting contest held in Cape Town, and was successful in winning the Championship title from nearly 200 entrants. She has brought honour and showers of congratulations upon herself and upon St. Dunstan's.

Young St. Dunstaners

Joyce Watson, Manor Park, has passed her examination for Grade 6 (intermediate) at the Associated Board, Royal School of Music. She was three marks under "Distinction."

John Hancock, West Drayton, has passed his Matriculation and General Schools examination with two distinctions and three credits.

Raymond Millen, Birchington, has passed the First Class examination for the City and Guild.

Marriages

Winifred Hughes, Neath, on September 2nd, to Kenneth Lloyd.

Marian Williams, Shipley, on August 12th, to Malcolm Bentley.

Joan Polley, Southall, on May 27th, to Robert Harrison.

Barbara Joan Smith, Bury St. Edmunds, on September 30th, to Leslie John Brinkley.

Jack Ridley, East Finchley, on September 2nd, to Miss Brenda Cooke.

* * *

R. Scrimgour, of Middlesbrough, tells us that his son, who is in the Merchant Navy, was in Australia recently and visited one of the Hoyts Theatres. He took the opportunity of seeing the manager and thanking him personally, on behalf of St. Dunstan's, for their generosity in sending such a large number of food parcels to St. Dunstan's.

Braille !

As a newcomer to braille, I have been much struck by the fact that the methods of teaching are much the same as those used in the Army when teaching one to ride.

At the age of 19 I was told I should have to learn to ride. This seemed to me a good egg. I continued to think so for a full ten minutes after I had entered the riding school. We were allowed to walk our horses gently around the school, and then told to dismount and "face our horses." I must say that my horse seemed less terrified than I at what he saw.

After this gentle introduction, we were told to trot. It was apparent at this point that identity of purpose was not easily to be achieved. It would require all my concentration and self-sacrifice. This process was very painful—air cushions were not allowed. There was no rhythm about us and no sooner did we establish some sort of agreement than my stirrups—my sole support—were taken away from me. We now started cantering, galloping and jumping, and at every stage the business of trying to fit in with one another (the horse and I) had to be started all over again. My hopes were constantly being raised, only to be dashed to the ground physically as well as mentally.

Is my imagination running away with me or did I really complete my riding education by accomplishing the astonishing feat of taking a five-bar gate whilst sitting backwards on my horse and with my arms folded? However my education ended, I am sure of one thing, and that is that the first co-operation, when we walked in a gentlemanly fashion around the ring, was never recaptured.

I should be the last to compare my braille instructress to an Army riding master. But whilst she did not use the same language or brutality, it was merely the female version of the same thing. Hopes of success were always being held out and immediately taken away.

I was first given a beautiful metal plaque on which the braille letters were stuck out in points as big as hobnails. "This," I thought, "is kid's stuff." My teacher must have read my thoughts, for no sooner was I settling down to this lovely alphabet work than it was snatched away from me and a piece of paper given to me instead.

Here we are learning to trot! These dots were impossible to find and, once found, quite impossible to read.

As with riding, patience and perseverance were rewarded; this time my only physical pain was restricted to the tip of one finger. As a prize I was allowed to read in braille all about "The Diver," and about this time too I read of the evil deeds of a very nasty fellow called Michael. The end of this story, arrived at through much sweat and tears, I found very disappointing.

Perhaps I am getting the sequence of events a little confused, but this period is very hazy and understandably so. I was being led through a book called "Contractions and Abbreviations." Every letter now had a different meaning and, in addition, I was initiated into the mysteries of dots. I well remember waking up one night in a cold sweat from the thought that if there were a dot 5 to master, there would also be dots 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6. Even so, I didn't tumble to the fact that there could be all sorts of combinations of these as well. Evidently I had not even learned to trot, and the whole terrifying business of cantering, galloping and jumping lay ahead.

My general knowledge, however, was improving rapidly. What with stories from British history and "Escapes and Hurried Journeys," I was absorbing history at a great rate. It was about this time that I was told that I might take the elementary examination. It may not sound much, but to me it marked a definite step.

From now on my teacher began to hustle me. Not only was I told to read from a book that had so many dots on top of one another with no lines between, but I was told to hurry—I was too slow. This hurt my pride and I raced along, hoping to satisfy my teacher somehow. When I did begin to meet her requirements for speed, she merely turned her attention to my braille typing and said that was too slow, until finally I was driven to shorthand! Here was jumping with a vengeance! One no longer put in the dots one was used to, but instead one merely put in the dots one would have put in front of the dots one would have put if one had put the dots which one hadn't put. . . . But perhaps I am again imagining that I am taking my jumps facing backwards and with my arms folded.

J. A. ORIEL.

Brighton Notes (Ovingdean)

The week or so prior to end of term were busy ones with plenty of opportunity for varied entertainment for the holiday men. The annual outing of both the Brighton, Hove and District, and Southdown Omnibus Companies, and later the Brighton Grocers' Association, came within that fortnight. Miss Morley, the Secretary of the Grocers' Association, is shortly to retire, and in a speech expressing St. Dunstaners' thanks for this annual outing, the Commandant referred to the many enjoyable functions which Miss Morley had organised for St. Dunstaners over the past years.

The accommodation during the Physiotherapy Conference presented certain difficulties, because the Conference coincided with the re-opening of West House, but if they were a little cramped for space, their spirits in no way suffered!

Close on the heels of the departing physiotherapists came the trainees returning from holiday, and Ovingdean settled down once again to its dual function of Training Centre and Holiday Home.

The commencement of the Autumn Term coincided with "Battle of Britain" Week, and numerous invitations were accepted from the R.A.F. Associations in the district and were much enjoyed.

With the evenings drawing in, both holiday men and trainees have given good support to the Sunday evening programmes arranged in the House, and on Monday, September 25th, the Debating Society met for the first time since July. The subject debated was "That there should be a Minister of Sport." The main speakers were Jack Hill (for the motion) and John Dix (against). The chairman was George Killingbeck. Both sides received support, but in the final vote the motion was defeated.

West House

It is almost twelve months since "West House Notes" last appeared in the REVIEW. Now St. Dunstaners are back again in the old house!

Many of you will be wondering what it is like now. Well, from the main road there appears little difference, but once you enter the doors you will find that much has been done. The interior has been considerably altered and modernised, yet the house has lost none of its character.

As with Ovingdean, West House will fulfil two functions. It will be a home for the elderly "permanent" residents, and will provide nursing and medical facilities for St. Dunstaners requiring extended convalescence and medical attention.

The transfer of St. Dunstaners and staff from Ovingdean took place just prior to the Conference, and the Sick Ward was transferred immediately after the week-end. It was thanks to the almost herculean efforts of the staff, both before and on the arrival of the St. Dunstaners, and not forgetting the good humour of the men concerned, that the move was completed with the minimum discomfort under somewhat difficult conditions.

It seems now that everyone has settled down quite happily and are getting their bearings around the house. Visitors are dropping in with increasing frequency, and it is becoming generally known that "West House" is back!

A Week at Lee-on-Solent Camp

On Friday, August 11th, it was arranged that I should join up with the party from Birmingham at Oxford station. Soon I was chin-wagging away with a dozen, all, like me, bound for the Camp at Lee-on-Solent. Other parties from different parts were already there when we arrived. We were shown our cabins and beds and, while unpacking, the Commodore of the Air Station came along and, in a brief informal chat, soon made each man feel quite at home. The rest of Friday, and Saturday morning, was settling in, seeking out old friends, etc. On Saturday afternoon I was asked if I cared to go for a walk. I agreed and found that my escort was a naval rating. We set out and I soon learned that he had just come back from London, where he had been on a naval gun display at the Royal Tournament. He and his crew had broken long standing records and had secured three massive silver cups, which were on view in the Camp grounds. I was indeed thrilled to tell him that one of my elder brothers, like him, had also been in this competition at Olympia a little before World War I, at which I had been a spectator.

In the evening came the first of the At Homes, and this was an example of the whole week's evening festivities. Every evening of our stay at Lee we were entertained by a different mess.

The small Camp Church was well attended on the Sunday morning, and later, after being liberally supplied with drinks and smokes, informal chat with the officers and their wives provided a most pleasant Sunday mid-day diversion for me.

On Monday morning I linked up with the swimming party, but having no costume (apart from other things) I must confess that I had to be content with paddling.

Tuesday was a momentous day for me. It was the day of the Annual Walk (three miles). Whether it was the result of a couple of tins of Horlicks', or just the Camp feeling, I cannot say, but I entered. I had never walked before and have well passed the age at which one usually begins, but I had made up my mind to have a go. Twelve of us lined up, having previously been supplied with shorts and vest. From the very start the other competitors seemed to disappear. However, I plodded on and about the half-way mark my escort told me that there were two behind. This revived me a little, but then one of these drew level and all my hopes of cups and medals having long vanished, I turned over in my mind whether to make the supreme effort. While I was musing my adversary pulled away and I haven't seen him since. However, I plodded along to the end. I was still conscious and quite able to cheer the last man home.

On Wednesday morning we boarded a sea rescue launch and cruised right round the harbour, then into the Solent and towards Southampton and Cowes. Here we had a thrill. The *Queen Mary* was heading straight for us. Our skipper took us right round her; we tried to race her, but she outstripped us and we went quietly behind.

Every day brought fresh outings. Then came Friday evening and the grand finale. The St. Dunstan's Choir, expressing their thanks in song; speeches by Mrs. Spurway and Jock Boyd; and even our very own Commandant had come along to contribute. All these speeches were replied to by Commodore Hubback amid sustained applause. Then the final goodbyes until we practically had to be "chucked out," to dream of next year.

H. A. H.

Births

BOGICEVIC.—On August 15th, to the wife of Svetozar ("Steve") Bogicevic, of New Malden, a daughter—Miraslav Elizabeth.

COLLINGWOOD.—On September 1st, to the wife of F. Collingwood, of Burton-on-Trent, a daughter—Dorothy.

CRUSE.—On September 13th, to the wife of J. Cruse, of Benton, Newcastle-on-Tyne, a son—John Phillip.

DUNKLEY.—On October 1st, to the wife of B. Dunkley, of Newport, Mon., a daughter—Hazel.

EDWARDS.—On September 22nd, to the wife of J. L. Edwards, of Coventry, a son—Robert James.

HOLLAMBY.—On June 12th, to the wife of L. Hollamby, of Oldham, a son.

HARRISON.—On September 14th, to the wife of T. Harrison, of Sheffield, a son.

MCCARTNEY.—On September 18th, to the wife of H. McCartney, of Belfast, a daughter.

NEWALL.—On September 18th, to the wife of H. Newall, of Manchester, a daughter—Pamela Janet.

PARKER.—On October 1st, to the wife of C. D. Parker, of Grantham, a daughter—Marion Vera.

SHALLCROSS.—On October 10th, to the wife of C. Shallcross, of Mouldsworth, Chester, a son—John Charles.

Marriages

BUTT—TRUSLER.—On October 2nd, W. Butt, of Worthing, to Dora Trusler.

FILBY—SIMMONS.—On July 29th, W. E. Filby, of Streatham, to Miss Lilian Simmons.

KILSBY—WESTWOOD.—On June 24th, G. Kilsby, of Brighton, to Miss Eleanor Westwood.

Death

WATSON.—Our deep sympathy goes out to J. Watson, of Manor Park, whose mother died on September 7th.

Miss Irene Llewellyn

Many St. Dunstaners will hear with deep regret of the death of Miss Irene Llewellyn, who was for so many years associated with St. Dunstan's at Brighton. The funeral at Brighton Crematorium was attended by Messrs. W. Anderson, W. Gadd, W. Ward, and H. Day from West House. Miss Morris represented Matron Pain, who was away on holiday, and West House Staff were represented by Mrs. Carter and Miss Arnold.

“In Memory”

Private Thomas Ashall, 1st Bn. King's Liverpool Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of T. Ashall, of Wigan.

He came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1919, after being wounded at Cambrai, and he trained as a basket-maker and carried on with this trade for a great number of years. He was considerably handicapped by head wounds and for some time had been far from well; he passed away at his home on September 5th.

Miss Doel attended the funeral at the family's request. The mourners followed the coffin on foot along the village street to the graveside. A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was among the many flowers.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Ashall and family.

Private George Spires, 21st Rifle Brigade (8th Wores.) Regt.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of George Spires, who was one of our oldest St. Dunstaners in point of age. He was ninety.

He served from November, 1914, until October, 1916, and came to us in December, 1918. He was then not a young man and he trained only in light poultry work. For some while his health had been poor and he was forced to take things easily. He died in hospital, where he had been admitted only a short time before.

A wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's comrades was sent for the funeral.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to Mrs. Spires and her family.

Lance-Sergeant Frederick Lavelle, Seaforth Highlanders

We record with deep regret the death of F. Lavelle, of Ewell.

He was discharged after his war service, during which he had suffered badly from mustard gas, but it was not until 1936 that he came to St. Dunstan's notice. At that time he was in the United States, but he came over to this country and entered St. Dunstan's. He trained as a basket-maker but his health was never good. He had been very ill for a long time, and on September 3rd he was admitted to Ovingdean but later was transferred to hospital, where he passed away a short time afterwards.

Among the many flowers at the funeral was a poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Private Raymond Hugh Slaughter, Royal Fusiliers

It is with deep regret that we record the death of R. H. Slaughter, of Worthing. He was fifty-two.

Enlisting in December, 1915, he suffered mustard gas injuries but he did not come to St. Dunstan's until June, 1945. He trained in basket-making. His health, however, was not good. He was admitted to a Worthing nursing home and he passed away there on September 5th.

A wreath from Sir Ian was among the flowers at the funeral, which took place at Durrington Cemetery.

Our very sincere sympathy goes out to Mrs. Slaughter and her family.

Captain William Owen

Trooper Alex Daniel Kirstein, D.C.M.

Mrs. E. Chadwick Bates writes:—

All St. Dunstaners of the 1914-18 war, and all South African St. Dunstaners of both wars, will regret to hear of the recent deaths of two of our family.

Captain William Owen, the first South African to be blinded in the First World War, died at his home at Hassocks, Sussex, on August 28th. He had been suffering from heart trouble, and was in poor health for the past three years. He was brave and cheerful to the end. We, in the Cape Town office, will miss his cheery and interesting letters, his trenchant comments on world affairs. We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow and two children.

* * *

Trooper Alex Kirstein, D.C.M., blinded in action in South West Africa early in 1915, died at his home at Klerksdorp, Transvaal, on August 29th. He had been ill for almost three years and fought against his illness with the same gallantry with which he fought in action.

Many St. Dunstaners of the First World War will remember his prowess at every kind of sport, especially his skill and strength at rowing.

Justly proud of his descent from one of the old Dutch farmers of South Africa, Alex loved to speak of his childhood and youth, spent on one of the big farms in the Transvaal. Although he trained at St. Dunstan's as a physiotherapist, and practised in this profession most successfully for 23 years he retained his interest in and studied all the modern methods of general farming, eventually, some years ago, giving up his practice and returning to settle on the family farm. In his farming, as in his profession and in businesses which he controlled, he was equally successful. His interests were almost unlimited. He took a practical interest in politics, was Chairman of the United Party of South Africa in his district, and contested the Parliamentary seat for Klerksdorp in the General Election of 1943, unfortunately unsuccessfully.

He was for many years chairman of the Transvaal Society for Non-European Blind; Vice-Chairman of the South African National Council for the Blind; and Chairman of the South African Society of Physiotherapists; on his retirement from the last-named office he was elected a Life President.

At his funeral at the family cemetery on his Farm, “Dennegeur,” nearly 400 people were present, including representatives of many organisations. St. Dunstan's was represented by Mr. W. (Pop) Marais, M.M., and Mrs. Marais, of Krugersdorp. Amongst the hundred or so of beautiful floral tributes were wreaths from Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, the Chairman and members of the Board of St. Dunstan's (South Africa), and his South African St. Dunstaner comrades. An interesting and touching incident was the singing of a hymn in the Bantu language by the native farmhands, who lowered the coffin into the grave.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow and five children.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 377—VOLUME XXXIV

NOVEMBER, 1950

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

FOR some thirty years West House has been a firm favourite with St. Dunstaners as a holiday and convalescent home, and for permanent residents. Now this fine building in Portland Place, Brighton, has been completely redesigned and modernised throughout, and will, in its attractive new form, serve a dual purpose only—as a home for the elderly permanent residents and for the provision of nursing and medical facilities for St. Dunstaners requiring extended convalescence and medical attention. I am sorry that ordinary holidays cannot take place at West House, but it is not possible to make full provision for the old, the sick, and the lonely, and still have beds to spare. Ovingdean, therefore, will in future accommodate St. Dunstaners on holiday.

There will, then, be many new features, many new discoveries for St. Dunstaners to make when next they visit West House, but let me say at once that everything has been designed to preserve the happy atmosphere of the home, yet at the same time remove some of the inconveniences of a building that is about a hundred years old. For example, features incorporated at the Training Centre, such as guide rails, have now been introduced, and the large rooms have been divided in order to make them smaller and cosier. Typical of the complete modernisation of the new West House is the installation of an electrically operated service lift, in place of the one worked by a pulley, and the substitution of oil furnaces for coke boilers. Even the garden in the rear has been laid out afresh, including lawns, rockeries, and alcoves where you will be able to enjoy a quiet smoke.

But let me take you on a quick tour so that when you next visit West House, you will know what to find and where to go.

From outside, the building is now quite resplendent in white and cream, and then, as you make your way up the steps to the entrance door, you must remember that it is not now "one over the eight," but "two over the eight," for there are ten steps to ascend. The old front door remains, but a pace-and-a-half on the other side are two swing doors, so don't think you are inside the hall after passing only the first door. Then the reception desk on the left of the entrance hall has been extended, and the telephone kiosk has been moved to another and more secluded place. But Mrs. Jeffreys will still be there behind the reception desk to greet you with a cheery word and a smile.

The pegs for coats opposite the reception desk have gone though, and the door to the dining room has been moved nearer the front entrance. As the orderlies' old door opposite has also been removed, and the wall blocked in, you will no longer bang your head, as so many St. Dunstaners did when a careless orderly had left their door open. At the end of the front passage there used to be the entrance to the lounge. But the lounge has now been made a little smaller to allow for a separate passage leading through to the

Sick Bay, and so avoid disturbing those resting by a continual procession to and from this part of the building. This passage leads first to the dispensary and then, by turning to the right and then left, to the new Sick Bay itself, which is now divided into three separate wards containing five, six and seven beds. Every bed is now fitted with a two-station headphone radio with volume control, so that you can now choose your own programme, and another feature is the tallboy installed by every bed to keep all your things nice and handy. Then every bed now has its own bed-table with a plastic top, and a bedside bell switch for calling the orderly. A red light tells the orderly which bed to go to and the light is only extinguished when the orderly switches off. And a new roof fanlight fitted to each ward gives the rooms more light and air than in the old Sick Ward.

From the far end of the Sick Ward a short passage leads to four new single-bedded wards, so that altogether there is accommodation for twenty-two patients. But you will find more changes here, for "The Bunk," as the old Isolation Ward was called, has gone—you remember perhaps how you used to mount steps from the Conservatory door to this Ward and the toilet. This alteration has been brought about by the disappearance altogether of the Conservatory, as part of this area has been taken up by the new Sick Ward. The site of the old Conservatory will now serve as a splendid sun terrace for beds in fine weather.

Now if you come back with me to the new entrance to the Sick Bay and instead turn left, you will find yourself in a most spacious hall, with chairs and a settee. This area was formerly the narrow passage that led to Ward 2 with its seven beds, which some years before was, of course, the Quiet Lounge. Midway down on the left of this hall is the new lift to all floors, and on the far right the old entrance to Ward 2 is utilised for access to both the new lounges. Ward 2 has, in fact, become a lounge again—but now the main lounge, while folding doors lead through to the new Quiet Lounge (formerly the main lounge). There are one or two other alterations here, for the fireplace of the Ward 2 and old Quiet Lounge days has gone; in its place are the doors leading to the new Quiet Lounge, but here the old fireplace remains. Then, from the far left side of the main lounge, there is a covered passage to the old "Cow Shed," where you will remember Miss Morris, now temporarily at Ovingdean, used to have her handicrafts in the old days. Well, the "Cow Shed," as such, has gone, but instead there is a fine new sports room, where you can play your darts, cards, or dominoes, or do your typewriting away from the other two lounges. This new sports room really makes up for the loss of the Conservatory. Doors lead from the two lounges, and the sports room, to the gardens, and from the Quiet Lounge there is a short approach to nine steps leading up to the lawn. The slope up to the old boot room has disappeared, and the ground levelled off. And the old crazy paving on the far side has been done away with, making for a bigger lawn and path. At the far side of the garden are the new workshops, or, if you like, the new "Cow Shed."

Coming back into the house and the hall leading to the main lounge, there is a new men's cloakroom and toilet, and Ward 1, which previously adjoined Matron's office, is now the Secretary's office and waiting room. So you won't have to go upstairs any more to see Miss Meldrum. Opposite the Secretary's office is an alcove leading to the new telephone kiosk.

So much for downstairs, and before I briefly tell you about the main alterations upstairs, you will be glad to know that there are now two fire escapes—put to so many other uses in the past, other than the intended one—to both floors.

On the first floor, rooms 1, 3 and 4, and the old bathroom, have been renumbered 10, 8, 9 and 11, and room 2 is now the orderlies' room—for there is now an orderlies' room on each floor. Number 10 is a four-bedded room, which has taken over part of the old number 6, and the old number 5 room has been replaced by a toilet containing four wash basins, two baths, and two lavatories. The old Commandant's and Matron's Secretary's offices are now taken up as staff bedrooms. On the second floor, the outstanding change has been that the West House part of the building, as distinct from Portland House, has come back into use as bedrooms. Rooms formerly numbered 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 are now 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20. The old number 11 room is now divided into two two-bedded rooms. The old number 5 room and the head of the old domestic staircase is now replaced by another new toilet, containing three bathrooms, five wash basins, and

four lavatories. Ward 1—now room 14—has taken over part of the old Ward 6, and contains four beds, and Ward 2 is now an orderlies' room. And that is about all I can tell you about the rooms, except that every room has a power plug from which you can use an electric razor. The central dome is back to its pre-war state, and on the stairs, instead of the old gates, there are now double swing gates—Ovingdean style. And instead of a rope cord there is a permanent rail.

So that is the new West House. I do hope you will like it, and will find it even more comfortable and easier for getting around, when you get to know the changes, than the old place. And you can be assured of a right royal welcome from Mrs. Rosemary Avison, the new Matron, whom many will remember as a Sister at West House some time ago. Yes, changes there have been many, but with all its modernisation, West House has lost none of its character, and if the happy atmosphere of bygone years remains—and I am sure that it will—then the new West House will have no fear for its future and continued popularity.

IAN FRASER.

The Lord Mayor's Thanksgiving Fund

In April of this year, at the request of many St. Dunstaners, a special fund was started which was to be our own contribution to the Lord Mayor's National Thanksgiving Fund. This Fund is to express the deep gratitude of Britain for the many gifts and parcels sent from overseas.

Our special little fund closed on August 31st, although the national appeal continues, and on October 21st, Sir Ian Fraser had the pleasure of sending to the Lord Mayor a cheque for £103 1s. 6d. as our contribution to his Fund.

The following letter was received from the Mansion House:

MY DEAR SIR IAN,

Thank you warmly for your letter of October 21st, with the enclosed cheque for £103 1s. 6d., representing a donation to the National Thanksgiving Fund raised by St. Dunstaners as the result of a suggestion in the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW.

This generous contribution by St. Dunstan's blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen is deeply appreciated by me, and I value highly this effective support which they have thus given to this national movement of gratitude towards our friends overseas for the immense volume of food gifts which they have sent to us in our years of need.

Will you please convey to the contributors an expression of my sincere gratitude?

Yours sincerely,

F. ROWLAND,
Lord Mayor.

Sir Clutha Mackenzie

Sir Clutha Mackenzie, who is UNESCO consultant on braille, is now in Turkey taking part in consultations on the modification of Turkish braille. He will also survey and make a report on general blind welfare problems in Turkey.

Sir Clutha is undertaking this mission at the request of the Turkish Government.

It was in Turkey that, in 1915, during the Dardanelles campaign, he was wounded and lost his sight.

Lord President Praises St. Dunstaner

On November 20th, Mr. Herbert Morrison proposed a toast of "The Newspaper Society," coupled with the name of Wing Commander W. T. Curtis-Willson, at a dinner given by Sir Ian Fraser at the House of Commons. Mr. Morrison said it was a notable achievement for a St. Dunstaner to become President of this most important Society.

Colonel J. J. Astor, representing the National Newspapers, supported the toast.

★ ★ ★

The first letter on the leader page of *The Times* on November 6th was from Mr. Curtis-Willson who called attention to the newsprint famine which, he said, must grow more acute with each year that passes, and urged the setting up of pulp mills in the Colonies to handle the potential raw materials which are available in Southern Asia and the Pacific Islands.

London Club Notes

The Annual General Meeting of the London Club will be held on January 5th, 1951, at 7.30 p.m., at Headquarters. It is hoped that everyone will make a special effort to attend.

The Club will be closed on the occasion of the Helpers' Dance (December 18th.).

Bridge.—We have first of all to congratulate Frank Rhodes and Dusty Miller on winning the Pearson Competition for the pairs. It was a first-rate effort and also a very good match, with very little in it. On top of this was a very good match played by our first team in the London Business Houses league match. They made a big recovery from thirteen match points down in the first half to finish the match in a draw. Although they were in the lead in the end, they had not made the required number of points to qualify for a win. As they were playing the runners-up in the League of last year, this looks like a good start.

Congratulations also to the North in defeating the South in their return match. This divides the honours for the year. We were also delighted to meet yet another new team in Barclay's Bank, who gave us a very good game, but at the same time taking the honours. By the time these Notes are in print, we shall have decided yet another competition, the most important of the lot, being the Pearson Trophy for teams of four, to be played at Brighton. As this is a new venture, we shall be a bit anxious as to its result, but with goodwill and understanding on all sides we ought to win through.

J. MUIR.

Indoor Section. Three reminders:—

1. Talks: Friday, December 8th, "What is the British Council?" by Mr. Paul Reed, Information Dept., British Council.

Friday, December 29th—"Who Pays the Taxes?" by Mr. Hugo O'Hear, Aims of Industry Speakers' Bureau.

Will all members please attend if possible. Attendance is not good, and if there is no improvement the remainder of the programme will have to be cancelled.

2. Please let me have your applications for tickets for the Dance at Chelsea Town Hall, on December 18th. They are free.

3. Dancing competitions for the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial prizes will be held at Chelsea Town Hall on February 2nd, 1951. *Please note.*—Professional partners will be barred.

On Monday, October 23rd, our Dart Team visited the Red Lion, Westminster, where we met the renowned Smith Brothers. Two games were played, each team recording a win, the result being left a draw. We were entertained right royally and a magnificent donation of £20 was raised for our Club funds.

Outdoor Section

The return walk with the R.A.F. (Halton Camp) provided an exciting and finely contested race on October 14th.

Off to a fast start, headed by Tutton and Hailes, the field soon settled down, with Johnson, R.A.F., in the lead. He was never in danger and won a very fine race.

The R.A.F. won the team race and the handicap, which was very pleasing to us, but apart from the combined race, the points count for the Cups as suggested by Charlie Williamson, and handicap times showed a remarkable result.

It was gratifying to see a new walker appear in Jimmy Fairgreives, who entered the race after only one training spin, and finished in fine fettle and in quite good time. More will be heard of Jimmy.

The next race is over 5 miles, combining a race against a team from the Polytechnic Harriers, on November 18th. There will be a six mile event from the Inner Circle on Saturday, January 27th, at 2.30 p.m.

Points Result

S. Tutton	...	...	...	20 points
A. Bradley	...	...	...	19 "
W. Miller	...	...	...	18 "
A. Brown	...	...	...	17 "
E. Hailes	...	...	...	16 "
C. Stafford	...	...	...	15 "
T. Gaygan	...	...	...	14 "
P. Cryan	...	...	...	13 "
J. Fairgreives	...	...	...	12 "

Magic.—Madam Zomah and members of the St. Dunstan's Section of the Institute of Magicians take this opportunity of wishing all our readers a very happy Christmas and all the best for 1951.

Will members please note that the Club will be closed on Monday, December 18th.

Sir Ian Fraser at French Remembrance Ceremony

Sir Ian Fraser was received in audience by the President of the French Republic, M. Vincent Auriol, at the Elysee, Paris, on the afternoon of Friday, November 10th. He later visited M. Jacquinot, the French Minister of Pensions, and had a long discussion with him, and attended the Remembrance Ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe on November 11th, at 11 a.m.

On the evening of Friday, the 10th, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were the guests of Maitre Engrand, President of the Union Francaise des Association des Combattants at a banquet to meet Ministers and the Officers and representatives of this organisation.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser also visited the Headquarters of the British Legion in Paris, at the invitation of the Chairman, Brigadier Swinton Lee, and as Chairman of St. Dunstan's visited the headquarters of the Union des Aveugles de Guerre, the organisation for the French war-blinded.

Leaving Northolt at 11 a.m. on Thursday morning, the 9th, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser flew back on the afternoon of Saturday, the 11th, in time to meet Their Majesties, the King and Queen, and Princess Margaret, at the Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall that evening, and to attend the Cenotaph Service on Remembrance Sunday.

Listeners to television saw and heard Sir Ian speak the familiar words of remembrance: "They shall grow not old . . ." at the British Legion Festival at the Albert Hall, on Saturday night. Listeners to the sound broadcast heard a different voice, and many of Sir Ian's friends thought he may have been held up in Paris. The explanation was that Richard Dimpleby commented on the evening performance but illustrated it with recordings from the afternoon performance. The other voice which was heard on the radio that night was that of Sir Richard Howard-Vyse, Chairman of the British Legion, who, in Sir Ian's absence, had spoken the Exhortation in the afternoon session.

Remembrance, 1950

In London, St. Dunstaners were amongst the vast audience at the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on the evening of Saturday, November 11th.

On the morning of November 12th, Remembrance Sunday, a party of St. Dunstaners marched to the Cenotaph with other ex-Service organisations, headed by Sir Ian Fraser as President of the British Legion; a wreath was laid on behalf of the war-blinded Service men and women of the Empire.

★ ★ ★

At Brighton, Harry Day, late Rifle Brigade, from West House, representing 1914—1918 men, and Thomas Morley, late Merchant Navy, from Ovingdean, representing 1939—1945 St. Dunstaners, placed a wreath on the cenotaph.

★ ★ ★

Liverpool and Manchester St. Dunstaners joined their friends at the Blackpool Home at a service conducted by the Rev. H. Wardle-Harpur on November 11th. On Remembrance Sunday a party from the Home attended the service at the cenotaph and W. Biggs, of Leicester, laid a wreath.

★ ★ ★

The front page of the *Sunday Graphic* on November 12th was devoted to a photograph of our St. Dunstaner, Harry Preedy, paying his tribute at the Cenotaph with his young son and daughter. The simplicity and quiet dignity of the picture has drawn much praise from readers of the newspaper.

★ ★ ★

Belfast St. Dunstaners attended a Remembrance Dinner, given by the British Legion Women's Hospital Committee. The Minister of Labour, replying to the toast of the Government of Northern Ireland, paid warm tribute to Hugh McCrea's work as telephonist at the Labour Exchange.

From Mr. Banks

Through the medium of the REVIEW, my wife and I welcome the opportunity to thank all St. Dunstaners, their wives, and members of the staff, who have been so very kind and generous in their congratulations and gifts to us on the occasion of our marriage. Please accept our joyful appreciation and gratitude, not only for the many gifts, but also for the abundant goodwill which has been expressed to us in so many ways, and which has added to our great happiness.

LESLIE ("BILL") BANKS.

Don't Count Your Chickens

I did not enter for the Manchester Braille Reading Competition because I thought I would win a prize, but to please the person who gave me my first lessons in braille.

The competition was being held at Whalley Range Girls' School, and we were to meet at the National Library at 9 a.m. This meant that my escort and myself had to get up nearly in the middle of the night to catch the 7.15 bus to Manchester. It was raining "cats and dogs" and it did not improve matters to find out that only the Schools had to be there at 9, and we could have had a little longer in bed.

We arrived and found our classrooms. I was in Class III—for those who had learned braille in the past five years. The test piece was from "Pride and Prejudice," so I was a little taken aback when the Examiner asked if I read poetry or prose. I had read very little poetry and could not think what prose was, and was just going to tell her that I only read detective stories when she told me I would be all right as it was prose.

I read about a page—something to do with shopping in a country village, and mentioned a sailor and his lass. I really couldn't make head or tail of it. A few minutes later I went before another Examiner, and this time it was "Pride and Prejudice," which wasn't bad at all. Not long afterwards I was told that two of us were to read again, and so I had another go at "The Shopping Expedition," but found I hadn't improved much from the first time.

In the afternoon came the prize-giving, and the girl who was third in Class III was the girl who had had to re-read with me. It dawned on me that I must have been fourth, and was quite pleased about it. When I arrived home, I was congratulated by everyone for being fourth. Naturally, I told them the whole story and they agreed that there could not be any doubt about it.

A fortnight went by and then the result papers came. Yes! There was no mistaking it. I was most certainly fourth.

Only four people had entered Class III.
(Mrs.) M. STANWAY.

Golden Wedding

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Burridge, of Reading, who celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on November 18th.

To St. Dunstaners in Brighton Area

Will all St. Dunstaners who are interested in the formation of a St. Dunstan's Social Club in the Brighton area please write to Mr. F. C. Fleetwood, 81 Lark Hill, Hangleton, Hove, 4.

Northgate, 1950

Throughout the whole of 1950 we cannot recall a day when it was impossible for the children to be out of doors for some time. "Come hail, come snow, and out we go," as a Trevelan remarked with chattering teeth, "but my! how it makes you eat." We can endorse this, and herein lies the secret of Northgate. We forge around in Channel gales, bowing our heads to the tempest, homing again like a flock of seagulls. Away, dull care! It's a holiday; two whole weeks in which to toss your cap over the windmill, your football into the next garden, and go like the wind!

Day brings the sunshine streaming into bedrooms full of air from the sea. Down come the children to breakfast.

Big and little ones alike find the garden a wonderful place to let off steam. Out they go after breakfast. By 10 a.m. hunger calls again and the pangs are allayed with biscuits and orange squash. Then down to the sea in prams, or on jet-propelled legs; and here, winter and summer alike, the sea gives us its warmth, charm, excitement, interest, and ceaseless occupation for shell hunters and crab-catchers. It is the most enchanting of all entertainments Northgate has to offer its children.

The famished horde, replete once more, has half an hour's rest with books, then come long walks on the Downs, when pram cases keep to the paths and bigger ones chase over Downs, beach and sea wall.

Day reaches evening. High teas, glowing fires, puzzles and stories for winter, or would you have summer evenings in a garden of sloping lawn, swings and paddling pool? Eight o'clock and all's quiet! If "dead to the world" describes the night, then "alive to the world" is the beauty of our day!

For Sale

LARGE BLACK LEEWAY PRAM, good condition. £5 5s., carriage paid.—R. W. Bridger, 124 Manor Road, Stoke Newington, London, N.16 (Stamford Hill 9079).

Talking Book Library

October's Offering

The flood of new releases has somewhat abated and only three salute our ears this month. All make good reading, without any of them achieving a classic standard of literature. Their titles are "Sanders of the River," "Private Angelo," and "The Ides of March."

"Sanders of the River," by Edgar Wallace, reader John Marsh, is a collection of episodes depicting the life and blunt methods of administration of Mr. Commissioner Sanders, in his territory in West Central Africa. The mixture of simplicity, cunning, superstition and pugnacity among the tribes for which he is responsible, gives him plenty of opportunity to exercise his uncanny judgment. It is gripping and quite stimulating.

"Private Angelo," by Eric Linklater, reader Anthony Macdonald, concerns a simple Italian peasant whose object in life is to run away from any danger that may threaten. He first appears as a deserter from the Italian army in 1943, and his tragicomic career is then followed until so-called peacetime. Laughing gas!

"The Ides of March," by Thornton Wilder, reader Stephen Jack, impresses me as an imaginative translation of imaginary documents, covering the year before the fracas in the Forum "put paid" to Caesar. The atmosphere created by the author is very realistic, and possibly I over-praise him when I suggest all the documents emanate from him. Startling, refreshing, and not to be regarded as history.

Laugh and grow fat, and if already so, grow fatter. "NELSON."

National Laying Test

Final report for 48 weeks, October 10th, 1949, to September 10th, 1950

		Test Score
1.	Bagwell, Philip R.I.R.	... 1334
2.	Chaffin, Albert "	... 1314
3.	Jarvis, Albert L.S.	... 1308
4.	Taylor, Tom R.I.R.	... 1130
5.	Wooddock, W. J. "	... 1114
6.	Gregory, T. "	... 1106
7.	Smith, W. Alan "	... 1094
8.	Clarke, T. "	... 1090
9.	Dent, P. "	... 1077
10.	Holmes, Percy "	... 924
Average per bird, for last month,		13.54.
Average of test score to date,		207.46.

A Slump in Microbes

"Not long ago the influenza microbe was tyrant paramount. He is losing his status in England and his international relations are also slumping. He is fighting hard to retain his supremacy. Fight back, and when he finds who he's in, he'll quit." Thus saith the doctor.

I swallowed an influenza MicRobe, kept him warm, and he invited his relations to an international shindig. The MicJocks, MicTaffs and MicSassenachs arrived in millions. Lapping cough mixture was the MicRobes' weakness. Intoxicated, they heaved missiles at the MicSassenachs lower down. The uproar in my chest was fiendish. The MicTaffs and MicJocks accepted my legs as pylons and sent hot, rasping shocks to all parts of me. Then they decided to go ski-jumping down my spine. To the accompaniment of bands—bagpipes, brass, string and wind—all playing different tunes, they bumped and galloped the life out of me. Then the snow melted and they swept the water and slush down through my eyes and nose and mouth till I was nigh suffocated. Then I felt the peace and quiet of a sun-drenched Elysium.

I awoke to find them gone. I asked my daughter could she foretell my future chances. She turned a teacup upside down and peered into its leaf-cluttered depths. "You are going into a big building on a hill. Fair and dark ladies will cross your path. Money will be given to you every Wednesday, and when you get it, don't forget to send my portion." That sounded like Ovingdean to me. Well, the microbes are slumping, the sun is coming up, and I wish myself all the best that can happen.

W. E. BROOKES.

Sympathy

A customer entered my shop recently but made no reply to my offers to serve him. I began to feel worried, picturing a possible hold-up. I rang for my wife, who dashed in and saw a deaf-and-dumb man trying to make me understand what he wanted. This strange episode makes me smile now, but I was also very touched as he made my wife understand that *he* felt very sorry for *me*. I personally was most sympathetic with him, knowing that I was far less handicapped.

J. BLACKWELL.

The Muffled Drums' Reunion

It is with mixed feelings I write of the Muffled Drums' Reunion. At the eleventh hour, a telephonic communication informed us that Bill Jay had been admitted to hospital and would not be able to join us. Wally Ruddock arrived with his right arm in a sling, having been knocked down by a motor-cycle and sustaining a broken wrist and injured fingers. Wally made a fine effort not to disappoint us all, but wisely, though sadly, he took to his bed on Saturday evening, suffering from delayed shock. Two others had to keep appointments at local hospitals for X-rays.

Our "Colonel," old Joe Jordan, turned up as fit as ever, and saw to it that everything went according to plan so far as he was concerned, not forgetting that pipe of his!

What was left of us were warmly welcomed by the Matron, Commandant and staff on October 26th, and that evening a welcome dinner was well attended. The Commandant made a short speech, to which we replied, and at this dinner we all had the pleasure of meeting Matron Avison from West House.

Friday morning saw us going out in two's and four's for a stretch along the cliffs, but we all managed to meet at the Plough for a little lubrication. Amongst the guests at this year's reunion was a rating and a Wren from Lee-on-Solent, and they proved to be both very helpful and popular.

The very fine tea at the Coach House on the Friday was an uproarious affair. In the evening was a dance and the next morning we spent in Brighton.

Ruddock's taking to his bed greatly damped down our enthusiasm as we set out for dinner at Strood's, but we managed to enjoy a very fine dinner. Finding myself next to Matron Pain, we naturally spoke of the day I entered St. Dunstan's, and of the many discussions and meetings there had been to overcome the problems of deaf-blindness. It was sad that there were enough deaf-blind to justify such an occasion as this Reunion, and we recalled the first one, held in 1932. After Commandant had made a short but fitting speech, there was a pause, and Joe got to his feet. The Colonel took three mighty puffs at his long cigar, then showed just how a deaf-blind man can make a speech!

We all found somewhere to go on Sunday morning, and after lunch we journeyed to Alfriston for a delightful tea with our

escorts. After supper we had a knock-out 5 and 3 dominoe contest, which was won by Jack Orrell, and a quiz, which was won by Wally Thomas. Then followed an interesting contest, in which all kinds of things were put separately into the palm of our hands, and we had to guess what it was. This was won by myself; Mr. Bedford won the booby prize.

On the Monday, Mr. Mackay visited us and interviewed us all individually first before we met him for tea later. Sir Ian sent word by Mr. Mackay to say how very disappointed he was to be unable to come down to see us all, and he sent the following message:—

"Deafness is a great handicap, especially when added to blindness, and I admire greatly the way you overcome it, and your cheerful bearing. I often think of you and your problems, and St. Dunstan's will always do what it can to help you. I wish you and your families the best of luck."

Mr. Mackay's suggestion that we should have two holidays a year—one in the Spring and one in the Autumn—was greeted with a cheer.

On Tuesday we visited West House and were shown all its improvements. We chatted with old friends, took a delightful tea and supper, then settled down to the domino contest, at which Matron Avison played too.

Wednesday morning saw us hand-shaking and back-slapping, then the last farewells—and home with happy memories and our warm thanks to St. Dunstan's for a very enjoyable reunion in all the circumstances.

G. FALLOWFIELD.

Other News

F. C. W. ("Micky") Fulbrook, of Penge, has been successful with his Red Cocker with the first litter, and his first venture. At the Olympia Dog Show (Ladies' Kennel Club Championship), he secured a "Very Highly Commended." During the previous week, at the Beckenham Open Show, the Cocker won a "Highly Commended" card in the Novice Dog Class.

★ ★ ★

F. Westaway, who has been a member of the British Legion Club, Yeovil, since its inception, has presented a door mat for use in the Club entrance hall, to commemorate the silver jubilee of his membership.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Coles, Chessington, February 2nd, 1950.

Natal Tour

I have just arrived back in Cape Town after a lecture tour of the Province of Natal, which lasted seven and a half weeks. Being a Rooinek, fresh out from England, the trip for me was full of interest.

After leaving Table Mountain behind us, it was not long before we started to climb the first mountain pass, which took us over the Hottentots Holland, so-called because, when the early Dutch Settlers ventured inland from the Cape, the fertile valleys of the Hottentot mountains reminded them of Holland.

The really impressive mountain scenery came when we entered the "Wilderness"; this part of the country has been aptly named. The mountains here have a stark, almost forboding aspect; we played for safety and took the lower road, which meant that we twisted and turned in and out round the base of the mountains which, in some instances, rose up sheer on either side of us. At other times there was a sheer precipitous drop on one side, usually just as we came upon a hairpin bend, and remember this was the lower road. The grandeur of these mountains is awe-inspiring. In fairness to the Wilderness I must add that, in parts, the scenery is softened by the rich vegetation that fringes the lakes at the foot of the mountains.

Before my first lecture, in Durban, there was a little party, at which members of the St. Dunstan's Durban and District Committee and friends met St. Dunstaners living in the area. Among those present were many old friends, including Tom and Mabs Hart, Jimmy Brinlow, Dr. Alexander, Tom Sattary, who had just returned from England, Mr. Kayn, and Eddie Taylor.

The latter, although wounded in the 1914-18 war, is a new St. Dunstaner, and will shortly be going to England for training. It was nice meeting old friends again, and especially did we get to work on Eddie Taylor, telling him of all the tortures and the awful fate awaiting him when he reached the training home at Brighton.

From Durban I travelled into Zululand. As many people will know, this territory is mainly devoted to the cultivation of sugar-cane. The proprietor of the hotel at which I stayed, calmly announced during the course of conversation that he had a python in a

box at the back of the hotel. It had just been caught and was all ready for dispatch down to Durban, where it would probably be sold to a zoo. Talking with planters, I heard lots of stories about these huge, loathsome reptiles, that live in the sugar-cane and live upon cane rats.

One remarkable ex-Serviceman I met was Col. Royden-Turner, who served in the Boer War, the 1914 war and the recent war. As Colonel of the Umvoti Mounted Rifles, he organises an annual dinner of Boer War veterans of his regiment and any others who served during the South African war. Now some of his greatest friends, men who had come from all over the Union to attend the annual dinner, are men who fought in the commandos on the other side.

Whilst fulfilling engagements in Greyton I stayed with Eddie Taylor on his farm a few miles out. You will remember Eddie is the new St. Dunstaner; on a previous occasion I had instructed him in the mysterious art of reading braille playing cards. Eddie learns quickly, and I was pleased to find that he had made such progress as to enable us to have one or two sessions at cribbage.

During a short stay in Pietermaritzburg I met many of those good people who did such a splendid job of work for the troops who were at the military hospital there during the war. I actually stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Collins, Winsome and Jimmy, who will always be remembered by some twenty-five St. Dunstaners as being a couple of really good scouts; they are both hale and hearty and have not changed a bit. Young son Russell is quite a big fellow now, and is away at boarding-school. He was just a young shaver of five years old when we all knew him. Even "Tinker," the dachshund, is still going strong, although, being a dog, he is getting a bit long in the tooth. St. Dunstaner Albert Mason and Mrs. Mason are still as bright and cheery as they were during the war, when they came to see us in hospital and put new heart into us. Albert still has an amazing repertoire of quips and conundrums. Also in Pietermaritzburg I met Jock Reid, physiotherapist. I arrived back in Cape Town, feeling richer for my experience and feeling that one can still learn a lot about new places, in spite of the handicap of blindness.

JAMES ELLIS.

Ovingdean Notes

This month at Ovingdean we have welcomed the Deaf Reunion—or, as they call it themselves, “The Muffled Drums” Reunion. During the few days they were with us we endeavoured to give them a variety of entertainments, and from all accounts it seemed that they each enjoyed their stay. We shall, for our part, look forward to having them with us again next year.

Debates, Quiz contests and play-readings continue as popular as ever, and we have also received several outside invitations during the month. The first of these came on October 11th, from the British Legion Club at Seaford, when a party of trainees and staff were entertained at a Social. The evening was such a success that we look forward, at some future date, to being able to invite our kind hosts and hostesses to Ovingdean. A few days later another group from Ovingdean enjoyed themselves at the invitation of the “Bull Frogs Club” in Brighton.

By the time this appears in print we shall have held the Bridge week-end and also the Domino and Darts week-end. St. Dunstaners from all over the country will be coming to us for both these functions, and we look forward to having them with us at Ovingdean for the first time.

Shooting

The October Team competition resulted in a victory for No. 6 team with four wins out of five, giving them eight points; their aggregate score was 706 with 14 plus's. The team was Messrs. McKay, C. Fraser and C. Phillips. No 1 team and No. 4 team tied with three wins each—6 points, and their aggregates were as follows:—

No. 1: 704 with 8 plus's.

No. 4: 704 with 15 plus's.

No. 4 team is therefore the runner-up.

The highest individual aggregate was obtained by G. McKay (243 and 7 plus's), followed by C. Phillips (242 and 6 plus's).

West House Notes

Little by little we are beginning to settle down in the new house. It has been pleasant to have so many of the St. Dunstaners holidaying at Ovingdean coming down to pay us visits.

There have also been several occasions on which we have joined Ovingdean, and

thus we have been afforded several opportunities for meeting old friends from time to time.

We were particularly pleased to welcome the Deaf Reunion for tea and supper on October 31st, just prior to their departure home on the Wednesday.

★ ★ ★

Chapel collection funds have been sent out as follows:—

Mayor of Chesterfield's Mine Disaster

Fund	£10
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Pearson's Fresh Air Fund	£5
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National Deaf-Blind Helpers'	
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League	£5
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Test Results

Typewriting.—D. O'Sullivan, M. Mannors, P. Pollock.

Braille Writing.—G. McKay.

Advanced Test.—R. Green, G. Jakins.

Senior Test.—E. Crook.

Thirty Years Ago

Thirty years ago I wrote some verses,

Thirty years ago life still was sweet,

Nowadays I'm mostly breathing curses

Now that I have corns upon my feet.

Thirty years ago my limbs were limber,

Nowadays, alack, alas, they are not so.

When I move, I'm like a piece of timber,

And I groan like trees in heavy blow.

Thirty years ago I had a pension

Good as any labouring man could earn,

Nowadays it's scarcely safe to mention,

Life is very real and very stern.

Thirty years ago the war was over,

We had done with slaughter for all time.

Nowadays the dark war-clouds still hover

Over many lands and many climes.

Thirty years ago the British Navy

Still was mistress of the Seven Seas,

Nowadays it's mostly gone to Davy,

Soviet “subs” are speeding where they please.

Thirty years ago, a goodly number,

Nowadays our number's very low.

Tears keep dropping as I oft remember

The gallant lads of Thirty Years Ago.

JAMES CHISHOLM

(“Third Reserve.”)

Waihope, New Zealand.

Blackpool Notes

The Blackpool Home re-opened after its "autumn clean" on October 9th, and we drank to happy days in a warming glass of port.

We were pleased to welcome Sir Ian and Lady Fraser on October 12th, when they managed to snatch a few precious hours from the Conservative Conference. We were very glad, too, to meet Mr. Nigel Pearson—grandson of our Founder—who came along to lunch.

On October 16th we went to the Lakes—the last trip of the year. Now the motor launches have been put away until 1951, when we look forward to more happy trips on Lake Windermere.

So often the wives enjoy the reflected glory of St. Dunstaners, but on October 18th those who were with their husbands at the Blackpool Home had a special treat—leaving husbands—and other cares!—behind, they went as guests of the Tower Company to the Children's Ballet. This is a very famous feature of Blackpool entertainments and the evening was voted a huge success.

The weekly visits to the Palace, Felman's Theatre, and the Grand were as happy as usual, and added to these entertainments was the afternoon at the Opera House as the guests of the management. Tea, programmes, and the unstinted attention of the Opera House staff added to the enjoyment of "White Horse Inn."

Young St. Dunstaners

Kenneth Fawcett, the 27-year-old son of our physiotherapist at Bournemouth, who is a medical student, has won first prize in the *Daily Graphic* competition for "giving good reasons for wanting to go to Australia." His prize is the journey to Australia, free of charge, with a gift of £150 also, or, alternatively, the sum of £715. So far Kenneth has not decided.

Placement

D. O'Sullivan, of Kennington, as a capstan lathe operator with London United Tools, Ltd.

★ ★ ★

H. T. Cheal won a first, second and two third prizes at the Bristol Show, the third time he has won first prize for onions.

Births

FAULKNER.—On September 22nd, to the wife of W. D. Faulkner, of Birmingham, a son—Paul Douglas.

FLEISIG.—On October 30th, to the wife of D. Fleisig, of Orpington, a son—Colin David.

HEWETT.—On October 30th, to the wife of G. Hewett, of Patcham, a daughter—Olga.

KIBBLER.—On April 18th, to the wife of L. Kibbler, of Langley, near Birmingham, a son.

MERRIMAN.—On October 31st, to the wife of George Merriman, of 38 Fulford Street, New Plymouth, New Zealand, a son—John Percy.

TAYLOR.—On October 23rd, to the wife of J. Taylor, of Swinton, a son—Ian Peter.

WARD.—On November 7th, to the wife of K. Ward, of St. Leonards-on-Sea, a son.

Marriages

FRASER—LEWIS.—On August 3rd, Colin Fraser, New Silksworth, to Miss Sylvia Lewis.

WAITE.—On November 4th, W. Waite, of Didsbury, Manchester.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

CHAMPNISS.—To F. Champniss, of Bovingdon, whose wife died on October 28th.

KERR.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Kerr, of Widnes, whose eldest son, John, died on October 24th from injuries received in an accident. He leaves a wife and two children.

ROBERTSON.—To R. Robertson, of Edinburgh, in the loss of his mother, with whom he lived.

YUILL.—To J. Yuill, of Wishaw, Lanarkshire, whose wife passed away on October 25th.

Grandfathers

M. J. Printie, of Edinburgh; L. Calvert, of Ormskirk (son for Phyllis); J. C. Brown, Wellington; J. Nolan, of Hinstock, (the fifteenth grandchild); H. Morris, of Welling (for the fifth time).

Great Grandfather

T. Allen, of South Hetton.

“In Memory”

Gunner George Henry Maynard, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of G. H. Maynard, of Fareham, at the age of sixty-three.

Although he was discharged from the Army in 1919, he did not come to us until 1930, when he trained in basket-making.

His death on October 13th occurred very suddenly. He leaves a widow, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers at the funeral.

Private Charles Norman, *6th North Hants Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of C. Norman, of Sompting.

He came to St. Dunstan's in April, 1917, after losing his sight on the Somme, and he trained in boot-repairing and mat-making, but gave up the first after a short while.

His death on October 13th followed a long illness.

Among the many flowers at the funeral was a tribute from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Norman, and to his three children from his former marriage.

Private Frank Mumby Bolton, *Duke of Wellington Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of F. M. Bolton, of Harworth, near Doncaster, who served with his regiment from August, 1939, until October, 1942.

When he came to us, however, he was already a very sick man, and in less than a fortnight he passed away at his home, on September 29th.

A wreath from the Chairman was among the flowers at the funeral. Our deep sympathy goes out to his relatives.

Private William Read, *11th Prince Albert's Own (18th Royal Warwickshire Regiment)*

With deepest regret we record the death of “Daddy” Read. He died at West House on October 12th, at the age of eighty-four.

Enlisting in January, 1909, he served with his regiment until May, 1917, but he only came into our care in 1944. His age prevented any serious training and he has been a permanent resident at one or other of our Homes for a long time.

With his death we lose one of the most popular and well-loved St. Dunstaners at Brighton.

A poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser, and wreaths from the matron and staff at West House, the G.P.O. Telegraph Service, Birmingham, his friends at the “Bristol” and the staff at the “Bristol,” were among the flowers at the funeral.

Our sympathy goes out to his family.

Private William Brightwell, *Norfolk Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of another permanent resident of West House.

Our St. Dunstaner came to us in December, 1917, after being wounded at Oppy Wood that year. He trained as a boot repairer and netter. He had been in poor health a long time and passed away at the home on November 13th. He was 69.

Wreaths from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at Brighton were among the flowers at the funeral.

Our sympathy is extended to his family.

Private John McAvoy, *Labour Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of John McAvoy, of Burnley.

He trained in poultry-farming and mat-making after he came to us in 1921, and for a number of years had a smallholding in Scotland. For a long time, however, he had been unfit; in fact, arrangements were being made for him to have a long holiday at Brighton, when he died very suddenly at his home.

Among the flowers was one from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends, and another from the Blackpool Home, where he had visited only a week before his death. Matron Vaughan Davies also attended the funeral.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow and two sons.

Private Robert Wooldridge, *Royal Army Medical Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of R. Wooldridge, of Carlisle.

After his service from February, 1916, until September, 1919, he came to us in 1926; he had already had some training in Scotland. He trained in boot-repairing and basket-making, but for a long while had been an invalid. He died at his home on October 11th.

He leaves a widow and daughter and family, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

MIDDLE-aged St. Dunstaners have children of military age, some of whom are serving in the Armed Forces. Younger St. Dunstaners are only just emerging from the last war and settling down to business and family life.

All must view the events of the past few months with sadness and anxiety. As I write, Mr. Attlee, Britain's Prime Minister, is in the U.S.A. where, whether we agree with his politics or not, he speaks for Britain. We will all wish him good fortune.

St. Dunstaners have seen enough of war and its consequences to work and pray for peace as fervently as any. But if war comes, they will carry on and do their duty in manufacturing, commercial or professional work, on the farm, or in business, and those who have retired or who are so disabled that they cannot take an active part will also serve by their example and steadfastness.

We at Headquarters are thinking and planning for any emergency, and, whatever happens, we will do what we can for our world-wide family.

This is not to say that I regard war as inevitable, or even probable, but it is certainly possible, and I feel that confidence will be encouraged by the knowledge that we are facing unpleasant issues and not shirking them.

Christmas

But at this time let us turn aside from the anxieties of the world and think of the Christmas message of Goodwill and Hope.

My wife and I think of all our friends throughout the world who have shared a common experience and have a common link in the great family of St. Dunstan's, and we will, on Christmas Day, drink your health and, come what may, wish you luck and as large a share of happiness as is vouchsafed to any, and may the New Year bring us unity and peace.

IAN FRASER.

Sir Arthur Pearson

In Memoriam

On Sunday, December 10th, services were held at Ovingdean and at West House to the beloved memory of our Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson, BART., G.B.E., who died in 1921. Sir Neville Pearson, our President, read the Lessons at both Services, which were conducted by the Reverend Dennis Pettit, himself a St. Dunstaner.

Lady (Arthur) Pearson was unable to be present owing to an indisposition. Lady Neville Pearson accompanied her husband to both Services.



At Blackpool, on the morning of December 9th, the anniversary of Sir Arthur's death, a short Memorial Service was held in the Lounge, and a number of St. Dunstaners were also present at a service at Holy Trinity Church the following day, when the Vicar paid tribute from the pulpit to Sir Arthur's memory.



On the morning of December 9th, Colonel Eric Ball, Senior Member of St. Dunstan's Council, placed a wreath on the grave in Hampstead Cemetery. With him were Messrs. Drummer Downs, W. Miller, and B. Quigley, escorted by Corporal Major J. Dawkins.

St. Dunstaners who would like to do so are invited to send their subscriptions of not more than one shilling towards the wreath, to Mr. Askew.

St. Dunstaner Elected an Alderman

Our congratulations to Captain J. A. D. Cochrane-Barnett, who has been elected an Alderman of the West Sussex County Council. Captain Cochrane-Barnett is well known for his public work in West Sussex and for blind people in the County.

Gardening Success

J. Wood, of Grange-over-Sands, gained two first, three seconds, a third, a fourth, a silver challenge trophy and a silver cup at the local Chrysanthemum Show this year.

Christmas Competition

A very happy Christmas to all St. Dunstaners. We want to make it merrier by offering a prize of one guinea for the solution to the following puzzle. Readers of "Nuggets" will be quite familiar with this type of teaser and we hope it will be equally acceptable to REVIEW readers (St. Dunstaners only, of course).

First the puzzle is given, then a clue. You are asked to re-arrange the letters of the puzzle and find the correct word.

1. FIRED HEN HACK. Clue: This be blowed!
2. ENTIRE CHINA. Clue: Handed down.
3. SIR GARTER. Clue: Ties knots!
4. DON'T BAN CAR. Clue: But this is banned.
5. PA GRANDSON. Clue: Also has roots.

Closing date: January 11th. Entries to the Editor, please, at 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. Mark your envelopes "Competition." The first correct entry opened after the closing date wins the prize.

Tandem Cycling

Are there any St. Dunstaners who cycle, and who would be interested in forming a tandem cycling club, or joining a local club? If so, Jack Dawkins, at Headquarters, would be very glad to hear from them.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," December, 1920:

"The holiday for the men in training at St. Dunstan's will last from December 17th, 1920, to January 7th, 1921, which is longer than usual to allow of the moving of the whole of the organisation across the Park to our new and permanent headquarters, where work will be commenced next term. Our new address there will be 'Headquarters of St. Dunstan's Work, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, N.W.1.'

"The workshops in the grounds have been so designed with a view to their becoming stores when training of blinded soldiers is completed, so that we have, in this new situation, a most convenient and well-arranged establishment from which the business of 'after-care' will be permanently carried on."

London Club Notes

A merry Christmas and a prosperous, happy New Year to members, escorts, helpers and sportsmen everywhere.

* * *

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Headquarters on January 5th, at 7.30 p.m. It is hoped that all will make a special effort to attend. The main items on the agenda are Chairman's report on the past year and election of new committee members.

The Club will be closed from December 22nd to 28th inclusive.

Bridge.—We opened our month with an enjoyable week-end at Ovingdean, where we played off the competition for teams of four in the Pearson Memorial Trophy. The Cup was won by Bruce Ingrey's team, with Jimmy Owen's team runners-up. Congratulations to the winners. Our Bridge Drive was won by Messrs. W. Collins and F. King. Messrs. H. Gover and H. Cook were second and third place was taken by Messrs. G. Jolly and J. Symonds. We wish to thank Miss Hands for great help in making the whole week-end such a great success.

We had a very nice win over the Midland Bank on November 11th; this was a very good match. Jock Henry brought his team up on the following Saturday and scored a signal success, on which we congratulate him. Finally, Mr. Armstrong brought a team of four and we defeated them also. I should now like to make a special mention of our team playing in the London Business Houses League, and to say what a splendid show they are putting up. They have not yet lost a point—more power to the elbow.

J. MUIR.

Indoor Section.—The old year is going out with one round of almost continuous activity in the Club.

The week ending November 19th saw the finals of the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prize Competitions; they were played off at Ovingdean. Play throughout was very keen and of a particularly high standard. Results:—

Crib—

Winner, F. Rhodes, London.

Runner-up, B. Edwards, Ovingdean.

Dominoes—

Winner, J. Walsh, Ovingdean.

Runner-up, Maxie, Ovingdean.

Darts, T.B.—

Winner, T. Rogers, Ovingdean.

Runner-up, G. Killingbeck, Ovingdean.

Darts, S.S.—

Winner, P. Cashmore, Birmingham.

Runner-up, P. Manning, West House.

Darts—

Team, London.

The Commandant presented fifty cigarettes to the highest individual score at darts:

T.B.—A. Wright, 92.

S.S.—P. Cashmore, 128.

Many thanks to Commandant, Matron and Sportsmaster Jack Jarrold for their splendid co-operation, especially the latter, who really did work like a Trojan.

I have received one or two suggestions regarding Draughts and Chess. We shall be only too pleased to undertake the inclusion of these, or any other games, providing we can get sufficient support.

Any member interested? Please let me hear from you.

TINY FLEMING.

Outdoor Section.—The next Walking Race will be from the Inner Circle, Regent's Park, at 2.30 p.m., on January 27th, 1951. Six miles Handicap.

On November 18th there was a five mile race and match with the Polytechnic Juniors. Chief Superintendent W. Batson acted as starter and presented the prizes, and we were honoured to welcome His Worship the Mayor of St. Pancras. A very successful afternoon's sport was enjoyed. Full results will appear in the January issue.

T. GAYGAN.

★ ★ ★

Magic.—During 1950, the members of St. Dunstan's Section of the Institute of Magicians have certainly excelled themselves by the performances they have given in Greater London. These were recognised not only in the local newspapers but in the general Press. Great credit goes to Madame Zomah and her band of magicians, who teach us every Monday night.

Any St. Dunstaner who would like to pay us a visit at Headquarters on Monday evenings, at 7.30, would be greatly welcomed.

A. J. WILTSHIRE.

Bridge Club A.G.M.

The Bridge Club held its 13th annual general meeting on December 9th. The chair was taken by Mr. Mackay, with the record number of nineteen members present. The committee was enlarged to five and was elected as follows: H. Gover (Captain-Secretary), S. Webster (Treasurer), N. Downs, R. Coles, and J. Brown.

London Reunion

November 29th saw another London Reunion at the Seymour Hall. The big hall was not perhaps quite as full as usual, but it was a most comfortable, happy crowd. The band of the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues) played for the dancers, and Jack Dawkins was the hard-working M.C.

At about half-past nine, Mr. Mackay introduced Sir Neville Pearson, our President, who was present with Lady Pearson. Sir Neville, who was greeted with applause, said the London Reunion was always one of the happiest occasions. Everyone would regret that this year Sir Ian was not able to be present as he was in bed with influenza, but Lady Fraser was there. There were contingents also from all the outposts—Commandant Fawcett, Matron Pain, Matron Davies—and another from Headquarters, headed by Mr. Askew. Another very old friend was there, too, Colonel Ball (loud applause). He had said that this reunion was always a happy occasion, but there was another reason that night for pleasure. That was a presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Banks. They all knew the work Mr. Banks had done for them for so long. He knew it would be the hope of everyone that his friendship with them in the past would be carried into the future—a future which he hoped would be extremely good. Sir Neville then called on Mr. Horace Manning, as a typical St. Dunstaner for thirty-three years, to make the presentation. Horace said that the gift of a radio set and cheque, which he was going to hand to Mr. Banks, was not just from London, but from men all over the British Isles. He wished Mr. and Mrs. Banks, on their behalf, good luck, good health, and good listening.

When Mr. Banks came forward to reply, he had a royal reception. Mr. Banks said that during the past thirty-three years he had made many friends among St. Dunstan's men. It was not, however, until he

had decided to end his bachelordom that he had any real idea of their feelings towards him. To many his wife was no stranger, and with her backing he hoped to be working for them for some time yet, though not for another thirty-three years (applause and laughter).

Then it was "on with the dance." When at last eleven o'clock drew near and the ranks were thinning, the general verdict was "A jolly good show—thanks, everybody."

College Reunion

The first College Reunion took place at the Trafalgar Restaurant, Northumberland Avenue, on Saturday, November 25th, 1950. Assembling time was fixed for 12.30 p.m., and the prompt arrival of the Collegians, together with their respective wives or escorts, must have gladdened the hearts of the very efficient and painstaking organisers. The presence of so many V.A.D.s and Sisters added enormously to the success of this first venture.

Outside, London was at its gloomiest; a thick fog, overhanging the city, chilled to the very marrow. But inside Trafalgar there was radiance, there was joy, and there was warmth, which dispersed the mist from the clouded memories of some thirty years ago. Returning memories resolved into a magician's wand, obliterating the intervening years. We were once again in the College lounge, with its variety of activities; there were excursions to the "quiet lounge," to the dispensary, to the linen room, and to the lake. The College spirit was aglow again; there was laughter, kindness, companionship, sympathy, encouragement and, of course, the playful leg-pull. Unfortunately, but inevitably, the spell spent its force and at 4.30 p.m. the Collegians had perforce to wend their divers ways through the gloomy fog, but with firm intent to come again in the not too distant future.

The Reunion was the inspiration of those indefatigable people known to Collegians as Nurses "Lloydy" and "Dusty" Miller, and Messrs. Jacko and Scottie, the last named controlling the proceedings. It is a pleasure and an honour to express on behalf of all present our deep sense of gratitude and profound appreciation.

And, of course, there will be further reunions!

Letter to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

On taking over command of the N.D.B.H.L. (stands for "Never Daunted but Hellishly Loaded"), almost the first letter I received was from St. Dunstan's, and it contained yet one more of the grand cheques which our League has had during the past five years, for the purchase of braille watches for deaf-blind people.

I thought I'd look up the record, for this is one of the most practical and useful forms of help that we receive.

During the five years, 113 deaf-blind people have received watches from St. Dunstan's. When the Fund was first operated, we could not obtain watches ourselves, so that, instead of cash, St. Dunstan's sent us the watches from their own stock—74 of them. Since then we have received a total of £254 18s. 1d. Calculating a watch at about £6 12s. 6d., this works out at well over £700 sent by St. Dunstan's men and women as the result of a suggestion made by Mr. Ottaway on his retirement. That's pretty good going, I think. In order to make the help even more widely distributed, the recipient of a watch is asked to agree that when he no longer needs it (we all go aloft some day) it is returnable and will then be allocated to another deaf-blind person. There is no discrimination. Any deaf-blind person, inside or outside the League, is eligible. We try to allocate according to the urgency of the need, however.

I am extremely happy in having this chance of saying "Thank you, very much," to all the boys and girls who have responded so generously. I myself am as blind as a bat and as deaf as any adder that ever added, and I can tell you that there is no more useful bit of equipment for a deaf-blind person than a sound braille watch.

Personally, and on behalf of all our folks, I wish St. Dunstaners all the luck there is and a very happy Christmas.

Yours very sincerely,

A. R. SCULTHORPE,

General Secretary.

National Deaf-Blind Helpers' League.

Placement

J. Ormond as a capstan operator with Messrs. R. H. Corbett & Co., Burgess Hill.

"No Arms and the Man"

A party of St. Dunstaners from the London Club paid a visit to a Club in Kennington recently, and were there amazed by the ability of an unarmed man. This young man, aged 29 years, was born without arms, his shoulders being unformed.

Our first introduction to him was when he, sitting among the guests present, casually lifted his foot above his table and lifted his beer mug by the handle.

But our interest was certainly aroused when the M.C. announced that we were to be entertained by an armless pianist. Our young friend mounted the stage, and seating himself upon a table slightly higher than the keyboard, proceeded to play with his socked feet. It was not a bashing exhibition, but really clever vamping. He used his toes to strike chords, not slowly but well above the standard of many party entertainers who think they are good. We heard "Silver Dollar," "The Harry Lime Theme," "My Foolish Heart," etc. He gave us tune, time and twiddly bits.

When he had concluded, a fellow St. Dunstaner, a physiotherapist, and myself, were allowed to examine the feet. They were perfectly normal, with great freedom of ankles, knees and hips. It was a little amusing to find a watch upon his right ankle, but, of course, it was the right place.

We chatted with him and learned that shaving, hair brushing, and feeding was quite easy to him, as was the putting on of collar and tie and doing up of buttons.

I personally was also interested to see his sense of balance. Whilst we examined the foot, he stood with no tremor and chatted whilst standing one-legged.

Our chat was brought to a close when he had to return to the piano to accompany a comedian in his songs.

JOHN MUDGE.

Tottenham, N.17.

To A Travelling Salesman

In Durham, she was Peggy,
In Manchester, Elaine,
In Glasgow, she was Maggie,
In Devonshire, just Jane,
But in London she was Phyllis,
The cutest of the bunch,
But down in his expenses sheet
They were Petrol, Oil, and Lunch.
J. A. M.

Brighton Notes

Another year is growing old, but what a busy month November has been for us at Brighton.

At Ovingdean on Monday afternoon, November 7th, there came a sudden telephone message from the Sergeant-at-Arms at the House of Commons, offering us five tickets for admission the next day. Speedy arrangements brought an excited party to St. Stephen's Entrance on the 8th, just as "Big Ben" struck two o'clock. A thrilling half-hour was spent by the visitors absorbing the tradition of the House, and then, before the traditional cry of "Hats off, Strangers," the ever kind officials had placed our group close to where the Speaker's procession would pass.

In the newly completed Chamber, upholstered in grey-green leather, our comfortable gallery seats faced the Government benches below, and were provided with "soft speakers" concealed in the panelling, thus enabling every tone of the speakers to be heard with clarity.

It was a day those who attended will long remember.

★ ★ ★

From debates in the House of Commons to debates in our house is a far cry, but the popularity of the Debating Group is growing, and we have had several visiting Debating Societies and have really been put on our mettle! For example, there was an extremely lively and well attended debate when Christ's Hospital boys visited us on November 23rd. We proposed "That to spare the rod is to spoil the child," when the voting went against the motion. Again, on the occasion of our visit to Lancing College, when the students there proposed "That the older generation is to blame for the short comings of the younger generation," and were defeated, we enjoyed another very pleasant evening.

The Annual Entertainment arranged in accordance with the bequest of the late Mrs. Pittman took place towards the end of November. A dinner, given at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, was followed by attending either the Theatre Royal or the Brighton Hippodrome. The party was made up from local St. Dunstaner residents and the men from Ovingdean and West House. Each man took his own escort. In all the party numbered almost 300 people,

and the whole evening seemed to have been enjoyed by all present.

Mr. Cheesman, who continues year after year to be such a good friend to St. Dunstaners at the Training Centre, gave another dance at the Arlington Hotel, and further entertainment was provided by an invitation from the Bull Frogs Club, Brighton.

As it will be almost Christmas by the time this appears in print, we should like to take this opportunity of wishing all REVIEW readers, ex-trainees, ex-holiday men, and those who have yet to visit Ovingdean, a very Happy Christmas and brighter New Year.

For those who live near enough to Brighton to consider "dropping in" on us over the Christmas holidays, here are a few details of the main items of the programme at Ovingdean:—

Christmas Eve—8 p.m., Pantomime, by Staff.

Christmas Day—8 p.m., Evening Social.

Boxing Day—8.30 to 11.30 p.m., Gala Dance (Fancy Dress Optional).

Friday, 29th—8 to 10 p.m., Dance.

Saturday, 30th—8 p.m., Whist Drive and Domino Tournament.

Sunday, 31st—8 p.m. to 12.15 a.m., Social and Concert Evening.

Monday, January 1st, 1951—8.30 p.m. to 11.30 p.m., New Year Dance.

We shall look forward to welcoming as many St. Dunstaners as possible who find they are able to join us on any of the above occasions, or, of course, at any time.

Sir Neville Pearson Opens West House

How very pleasant it was to welcome so many old friends and acquaintances to West House on Tuesday, December 5th, when our official re-opening by Sir Neville Pearson, and house-warming party took place.

The house was looking at its best and was beautifully decorated with many delightful flowers. For these flowers, incidentally, we have to thank Mr. Dyson, of the Brighton Parks Committee.

It was right and fitting that the house which has seen so many ceremonies and parties in the past should have such a truly representative gathering on this occasion. Apart from the representatives of the Good Companions, there were members of the different organisations in Brighton who have

given assistance to St. Dunstan's in the past. Sir Neville, who was accompanied by Lady Pearson and Colonel Ball, spoke for all St. Dunstaners when he said in his speech of welcome to the guests that St. Dunstan's had never been lacking in good friends, and none had been better than those of this town.

Sir Neville revealed that West House was built a century ago, and was at first a residence of the then Marquess of Aberavenny. It was bought by the Federation of Grocers' Associations, and presented to his father, the late Sir Arthur Pearson, Founder of St. Dunstan's, in 1918. Once it was suggested that the old house should be closed down because it was old-fashioned. Now, after its reconstruction on modern lines, they were able to look at it with pride.

After tea, the guests were free to make a tour of the garden and the building, or to sit and chat amongst themselves and their St. Dunstan's friends.

Amongst those present were Mr. Askew, Mr. Lloyds and Mr. Mackay, representing Headquarters, Matron Davies from Blackpool, Commandant from Ovingdean (Matron Pain was unable to attend, as she was away on leave), Mr. L. Banks, Air Commodore and Mrs. Dacre, and Mrs. M. Ouseley.

Test Results

Typewriting.—J. Walbrugh (South African), C. Redford.

Braille Writing.—W. Flowers.

Advanced (Interpoint) Braille Reading.—C. Fraser, G. Ellis.

★ ★ ★

Other News

Ex-Trooper Rufus Shaw, M.M., of Burnley had the honour of taking part in the guard of honour at Chester on December 5th, when the King inspected the 1st Royal Dragoons. His Majesty shook hands with Trooper Shaw, noticed his St. Dunstan's badge, and chatted for a few minutes.

Tommy North came to London on November 11th, with members of the Fellowship of the Services, and in the short time he was in town, he visited the Cenotaph, was taken by a Member of Parliament to the House of Commons, had a dinner at a Corner House, followed by a Concert, and as their train did not leave London until one o'clock in the morning, he reached home again at five.

Blackpool

sends good wishes to all St. Dunstaners for a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Young St. Dunstaners

Marjorie Shaw, Oldham, has been awarded the Silver Medal of the London College of Music, with the high standard of 92 marks out of a possible 100. She has previously won three prizes in the College examinations.

Desmond Jackson, Ashford, Kent, is now in the R.A.F. and is a Cadet Pilot. He has so far passed all his examinations.

Marriages

Alan Irvine, Maryhill, Glasgow, on December 8th, to Miss Agnes Baillie; John Martin, Bray, on November 23rd, to Miss Annie Mann.

Grandfather

A. J. Radford, of Castle Cary (a son for his daughter, Bessie).

Monty Brooke

St. Dunstaners of the first war will hear with the deepest regret of the death of Monty Brooke.

Ill-health had forced him, in 1949, to retire at a very early age, but St. Dunstan's was his life and he never seemed really to have left us.

Monty knew for many years that he was not a fit man. In the recent war, rejected by the three Services, he joined the Auxiliary Fire Service, and served with them through the air raids, including the big fires of London, until an accident put an end to any further activity.

Drummer Downs writes: "The untiring energy, unselfishness and affection which he bestowed upon all those who had lost their sight will always be one of our happiest memories. I can remember Monty first appearing at the College when about fifteen years of age, and the manner and kindness towards his sightless friends was a lesson to even the toughest."

Mr. G. Zipfel travelled from London to Pontypool to represent St. Dunstan's at the funeral ceremony. Among the flowers was a poppy wreath from Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, and his colleagues on the staff, a wreath from Drummer Downs and some blinded soldier colleagues, and another from the Staff Association, of which Monty was chairman and member for many years.

“In Memory”

Rifleman Thomas Waldin, 8th Rifle Brigade

It is with deep regret that we record the death of T. Waldin, of Winchester, which occurred at his home on November 10th. He was fifty-four.

When the first World War broke out, he joined the Rifle Brigade, and was blinded at Ypres the following year. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1916 where he trained in boot-repairing, but later took a shop which he managed most successfully until as recently as August last, when ill-health forced him to retire.

Tom married Miss Benwell while training at St. Dunstan's, but since her death seven years ago his mother-in-law has looked after him. He leaves a daughter and three sons, two of whom are in Canada, and our deep sympathy is extended to them and to Mrs. Benwell.

The funeral service was at Stanmore Free Church, where he has been a member for many years. Messrs. W. Lowings and J. Sherratt represented St. Dunstan's, and a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was among the many flowers.

Private Edward Hindle, Royal Scots

With deep regret we record the death of E. Hindle, a St. Dunstaner of the recent war.

He served with his regiment from June, 1940, until August, 1942, but when he came to us five years later, although he was still a young man, his health was sadly undermined. Practically all the time he was with us he was a resident at our Homes, and his death took place at West House on November 14th.

A wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral, which took place at his home.

He leaves a widow and little son, to whom our deep sympathy goes out.

Private Alfred J. Cole, Royal Army Service Corps

We record with deep regret the death of A. J. Cole, of Southampton, after a long illness. He was sixty-six.

Serving from May, 1915, until April, 1919, he was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1927 and trained as a mat-maker and poultry-keeper. During the war, however, he did good work in a factory.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was sent for the funeral.

He leaves a widow and five grown-up children—four sons and a daughter—to whom our sincere sympathy is extended.

Private Albert Impey, Royal Army Service Corps

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Albert Impey, of Dunstable, at the age of seventy-eight.

Wounded in France in May, 1915, he came to us the following year. He trained in mat-making and carried on with this for some time, but he had been ill for a considerable period and he passed away on November 29th.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and two grown-up children.

Private Frederick Matthews, Royal Army Medical Corps

We record with deep regret the death of F. Matthews, of Totnes, Devon.

Enlisting in October, 1915, he was discharged from the Service in August, 1919, but while serving in France he was wounded in the head, and later severely gassed. After a long period of convalescence he was sent to Russia. It was as a result of the delayed action of the mustard gas that he came to St. Dunstan's nearly thirty years later—in July, 1948. His health was then far too poor to allow him to receive any training, for he had suffered continually from bronchial asthma as well as blindness.

There was a poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser among the flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Matthews.

Births

MCDONOUGH.—On November 15th, to the wife of J. McDonough, of Clifden, County Galway, a daughter—Kathleen Ann.

MCINTYRE.—On October 8th, to the wife of K. H. C. McIntyre, of Durban, a daughter—Alison McDonald.

WARD.—On November 7th, to the wife of K. Ward, of St. Leonards, a son—Ronald Frank.

Marriages

MARTIN—PATON-WATSON.—On November 9th, J. H. Martin, of Cricklewood, to Mrs. Margaret Paton-Watson, of Blackpool.

PIKE—SMITH.—On December 1st, C. Pike, of Chesterfield, to Mrs. Florence E. Smith.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out this month to the following:—

DONNELLY.—To J. Donnelly, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, whose father died on November 11th, after a short illness. He was seventy-nine.

LLOYD.—To A. Lloyd, of Accrington, who lost his wife on December 1st.

MARSDEN.—To Mr. and Mrs. F. Marsden, of Blackburn, whose daughter, Mrs. Ethel Horan, has died after a very long illness.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Braille

IT was three years ago that we started the braille competitions for which the Arthur Pearson Memorial Prizes are given. The idea was to encourage a high standard of braille reading by introducing an element of competition and it has been very successful. Various standards were set, some to encourage those who had let their braille lapse to take it up again, others for those who had attained higher degrees of proficiency to record their progress and improve their performance. Braille reading is like shorthand—you can learn the system very easily and very quickly, but it takes a lot of practice and continuous use of the method before speed and fluency are attained. Since we started these what I might call post-graduate courses of competition, in 1945, just over a hundred St. Dunstaners have passed the Advanced Braille Reading Test, and forty-eight have attained the highest award of all, the Senior Braille Reading Test.

I wonder how the St. Dunstaners of the Second World War are getting on with their braille? My experience was that during the first few years after I was blinded, having learnt braille at St. Dunstan's and passed the Elementary Test, I neglected it for a considerable time and only took it up again later on. And, indeed, it was not for many years that I became really proficient at it. I would remind the younger St. Dunstaners that these proficiency tests and prizes are available to them, and I would venture to encourage them to go in for these competitions. Few things are so rewarding to a blind man as the ability to read braille fluently; even if he is fairly busy he will find that there are times during the day when he has no ready and congenial occupations, and to be able to pick up his magazine or book and read a few pages is a splendid resource and pastime. Those who make speeches or attend meetings will find that a hand frame and the ability to write brief notes and to use them are of the greatest value; notes, for example, for an agenda paper or of any particular matter which is coming up, or notes for a speech.

I had two enquiries recently about braille, to which I think it is worth while making reference. One St. Dunstaner asked me if the Royal Air Force Quarterly could be put into braille as it specially interested him; the other asked if some country life magazine, such as *The Field*, could be brailled. The answer to both these enquiries is that it would be impossible to print in braille a magazine of a specialist character which only has a small readership, for the cost would be much too great. The blind world is relatively small, and therefore its magazines and books must be of general appeal. Nevertheless, it is possible for St. Dunstan's to arrange for special books or articles or special studies to be put into

braille for individuals, and these are done by voluntary writers who undertake the special work for the particular individual. In order that the very great labour involved may be as useful as possible, we ask that the particular volume or pamphlet shall be returned after its use in order that it may be passed on to somebody else whom it may interest.

There is one other thing to be said about braille, namely, that St. Dunstan's provides free of charge to all St. Dunstaners any braille magazine which they may require, and if there are any St. Dunstaners who are not aware of this, they may like to know about it so that they may write to the Welfare Department and get what they want. This free gift of braille magazines involves a certain responsibility on the recipients, namely, that they shall only ask for and only continue to receive those which they really use, otherwise there is considerable wastage.

The Television Licence

I have recently been asked by a number of blind people whether they can receive a free television licence, in just the same way that they receive a free wireless licence. A variation of this request is as to whether a blind person who forgoes his free wireless licence may receive his television licence for £1 instead of £2. I have answered these enquiries in the negative, and have added that I do not think that St. Dunstan's ought to ask the Government to extend the free wireless licence to television, either partially or wholly. We receive many considerations from the State, including the free wireless licence, but it would be going too far, I venture to think, to ask that a form of entertainment such as television, which is designed primarily for those who can see, should be made free to us. We might as well ask for special consideration in the matter of the cinema because there is an oral element to it as well as a visual element, or for free beer because we can drink it with our eyes shut.

Show-Jumping Chairman

From time to time St. Dunstaners have undertaken activities which are unusual and perhaps even surprising. One of these has been brought to light by the award of a C.B.E. to Lieut. Colonel M. P. Ansell, D.S.O., a St. Dunstaner. Colonel Ansell, who was one of the youngest commanders of a cavalry regiment when the Second War broke out, was taken prisoner in the early days, and spent some time in the camp with other blinded St. Dunstaners in Germany. Before the war he had been a prominent member of the British Army Jumping Team, and was an outstanding horseman, and when he came back from the war he took up his old pursuit with enthusiasm and became a member of the Council of the British Show Jumping Association. His expert knowledge and reputation as well as his very great ability and personality, led to his being appointed Chairman, and he has occupied that post for the past five years. This Association has become the governing body in British jumping, and occupies a position similar in this field of sport to that which the Jockey Club occupies in the field of racing. It is not an exaggeration to say that the great success which the British Team has had in international jumping during recent years is largely due to Colonel Ansell's organisation and leadership. We congratulate our fellow St. Dunstaner on this unique success, and upon the honour which the King has conferred upon him, but the point that will be most interesting to us is that, in spite of blindness, a man should not merely have succeeded in making a real contribution to this national sport, but that he should have become an outstanding figure of authority. I am told that Colonel Ansell's advice is sought by promoters of big jumping events, such as the International Horse Show at the White City and the Harringay Horse of the Year Show, and that, under his Chairmanship, the British Show Jumping Association has developed from a society with a few hundred members to one having many thousands which commands the respect of all concerned. This goes to show that blindness in itself is not a handicap to many activities, some of which may be of a most unlikely nature, and that the qualities of determination, leadership, and the gifts of tact, persuasion and of commanding confidence and getting people to work together, are capable of expression even though the handicap of blindness has to be overcome.

Australian Honours

The New Year Honours List also contained an O.B.E. for Captain Gilbert Nobbs. He is a St. Dunstaner of the First World War who went out to Australia for his firm, Holbrook's Sauce, Ltd., and built up a branch of that organisation which, after twenty years or so under his chairmanship, became even more important than its parent in the Old Country. On his retirement a few years ago, he became active in the welfare of the blind in New South Wales, and when the war broke out took charge of a Committee which undertook the care of New South Wales blinded ex-Servicemen. It was for this work that he has been honoured, and St. Dunstaners throughout the world as well as those who came under his care in New South Wales will rejoice and offer their congratulations. Mr. Kippax, the instructor who worked under Captain Nobbs, training and helping New South Wales blinded ex-servicemen, received an M.B.E., and we offer our congratulations to him also.

Another Australian has distinguished himself, namely, Eric Hailes, who came over from the Commonwealth to St. Dunstan's in Britain for training as our guest, under the scheme which we introduced a couple of years ago. He specialised in piano-tuning and has now finished his course. He has passed his Finals, has become a Member of the Institute of Musical Instrument Technology, and has received a Gold Medal for taking first place in the examinations in 1950. We wish him every success when he returns to Australia next month.

IAN FRASER

The King's Birthday

On December 14th the following telegram was sent to our Patron, His Majesty King George:—

"The blinded men and women of St. Dunstan's throughout the Empire send loyal greetings on the occasion of your birthday.

IAN FRASER."

The following message was received from His Majesty:—

"I send to you, and the blinded men and women of St. Dunstan's throughout the Empire, my sincere thanks for your kind congratulations on my birthday.

GEORGE R."

Christmas and New Year Greetings

A message of greeting for Christmas and the New Year was sent to our friends at Newington House, Edinburgh, at Christmas time. The following message was received by Sir Ian from Mr. John Gavin:

"Christmas greetings and best wishes for the New Year from the men of Newington House to all St. Dunstaners. Our greetings to you and Lady Fraser."

From France came the following message, which was read to St. Dunstaners at Ovingdean on Christmas Day:—

"Best wishes to all St. Dunstaners from French war-blinded. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year.

IZAAC AMBLARD."

Placements

Colin Fraser as a telephone operator with the University of London Institute of Education; M. Wesley as a telephone operator at the Military Hospital, Shorncliffe; Sobhi Khabbazi as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. Brighton Engineering Ltd., Portslade; Leslie Thompson, Durham, until recently employed in his father's building business, and now trading as a shopkeeper in Gateshead; W. W. Burns, as a telephonist with British Celanese, Ltd., Jarrow.

"Thirty Years Ago"

From "*St. Dunstan's Review*," January, 1921:

The Arsenal Play St. Dunstan's

"The second game between the First League team and our eleven was most exciting. Our opponents had practically their full team, except Pagnam and Dr. Rutherford, and in spite of being blind-folded, shot with surprising accuracy. Although Williamson kept a splendid goal, his colleagues put four shots past him—scored by Messrs. Baker, Bradshaw, Blyth and Hutchens. Unfortunately, our team seemed to be suffering from "stage fright," for their shooting was not nearly up to their usual standard. However, the goalie had to play well to keep our boys out, but we were beaten by 4—0."

London Club Notes

The London Club held its Annual General Meeting at Headquarters on January 6th. The Central Committee for the ensuing year was elected as follows: Messrs. P. Ashton (Chairman), H. Gover, J. Muir, T. Gaygan, C. Stafford, F. Rhodes and J. Mudge. Mr. W. G. Askew attended and took the chair for the latter half of the meeting.

The Chairman's report for the past year and the accounts were favourably received. All Talks have had to be cancelled owing to the poor attendances. During discussion the request was put forward that the Club should be opened for three Saturdays during August, and Mr. Askew promised to look into this matter.

It is gratifying to see more new St. Dunstaners attending the Club, and a warm welcome awaits all newcomers.

The Club is open from 5 to 10 p.m. Monday (Institute of Magicians), Tuesday (Whist Drive), closed Wednesday, Thursday (Dominoes), Friday (free night), Saturday, 2 p.m. until 10 p.m., Bridge and Whist.

A Grand Dance will be held on February 2nd at the Chelsea Town Hall, 7.30 p.m., when the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Trophies will be competed for in old-fashioned waltz and fox trot. Bar and light refreshments. Tickets may be obtained from the Club, 2s. 6d.

The remainder of the Walks Programme for 1951 is:—

Jan. 27—6 mile Handicap.

Feb. 17—7 mile Handicap and Style prize.
——— 10 mile Handicap (date to be fixed).

Apr. 21—7 mile All England Championship.

The Farmer Cup race will be held at Brighton, probably in May.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge

A Christmas Bridge Drive was held at Headquarters on December 16th. It was a bright, cheery afternoon with free and easy bridge, and a special tea well and ably prepared by Miss Ibbetson and her band of helpers. The first prize was won by T. Roden and partner, with F. King and partner second, and H. van Niekerk and partner third. A special mystery prize was won by Blodwen Simon and her partner.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyds made our party just perfect, and Mrs. Lloyds presented the prizes.

Our team playing in the London Business Houses League scored another success on January 4th, this time against London Transport Executive.

H. GOVER.

Five Miles Handicap and Team Match v. Polytechnic Juniors, November 18th

Order Finish	Name	Club	Time	All.	Hp. Time in H'cp.	Pos.
1	T. Gaygan	St. D.	43.09	Scr.	43.09	10
2	P. Lyon	P.Jn.	43.49	1.40	42.09	3
3	F. Bailey	P.Jn.	44.00	2.10	41.50	2
4	V. Payne	P.Jn.	44.35	2.15	42.20	4
5	R. Gulmin	P.Jn.	45.15	1.50	43.24	11
6	A. Brown	St. D.	45.28	2.20	43.08	9
7	W. Miller	St. D.	46.04	2.35	43.29	12
8	G. Johnson	P.Jn.	46.45	4.10	42.35	5
9	T. Denmead	St. D.	48.07	5.15	42.52	8
10	P. Cryan	St. D.	48.52	5.20	43.32	13
11	E. Hailes	St. D.	48.56	6.10	42.46	7
12	C. Stafford	St. D.	51.09	7.15	43.54	14
13	S. Tutton	St. D.	52.16	9.40	42.36	6
14	J. Fairgreave	St. D.	52.17	10.40	41.37	1

1st Handicap, J. Fairgreave.

2nd Handicap, F. Bailey.

3rd Handicap, P. Lyon.

Fastest Loser, T. Gaygan.

Polytechnic Juniors, 14 points.

St. Dunstan's, 23 points.

Points awarded to London Walkers to date:

S.S. Section—

A. Brown	34 points
W. Miller	33 "
P. J. Cryan	27 "
A. G. Bradley	19 "

T.B. Section—

S. Tutton	39 points
E. Hailes	33 "
J. Fairgreave	32 "
T. Gaygan	32 "
C. Stafford	27 "

Stalag 9 A/H

A Christmas card was sent to us from an old friend, T. (Taffy) Rowe, addressed to "the boys of Stalag 9 A/H, Closter Haina, now at St. Dunstan's." New Year greetings to you, too, Taffy.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. A. Jones, Hove, December 25th.

Liverpool Club

This year the Liverpool Club held its Christmas Party on Saturday, December 9th, at its headquarters, Sefton Hall, when members with their wives and families came along in real festive mood. Our guests of honour were Matron B. Vaughan Davies and Mrs. E. Dunphy, late Welfare Visitor for this area.

After tea a happy little ceremony was enacted when both Matron and Mrs. Dunphy were presented with a Christmas gift from Club members by our President, Captain Holloway, and Mrs. Violet Formstone. This was followed by a magnificent entertainment, given by Mr. J. C. Reason, well-known Merseyside pianist, and his friends. Our next item on the programme was the distribution of gifts to the children, and this was charmingly done by Mrs. Holloway. The kiddies were thrilled no end and this was undoubtedly the highlight of the evening for them.

Dancing and games was now the order of the evening, and much amusement was caused when Teddy and Mrs. Cooper won the Jelly Feeding contest; Alec Wright held his last year's title of Baby Bottle Sucking champion; and Alf Lincoln won the Slow Walking Race. In the women's section, Mrs. Ellis secured the title of Baby Bottle Sucking champion.

A surprise draw for ladies only was won by Mrs. Moorcroft, who received an embroidered cushion.

NOTE.—The Club meets next on Saturday, January 6th, and afterwards fortnightly.

TOMMY MILNER.

Look Out for This

A film is at present running at the Leicester Square Cinema, in London, entitled "The Undefeated." It was made under the auspices of the Ministry of Pensions, and it deals with the physical and social adjustment of disabled ex-Servicemen and women and other handicapped people. The hero is a legless ex-glider pilot, but also seen in the film are Sir Ian Fraser and other St. Dunstaners.

The film is not yet released so that it is not possible to give dates, but it will probably be shown at cinemas on the A.B.C. circuit.

The Honours List

The New Year Honours contained several names of interest to St. Dunstaners, in addition to those mentioned by Sir Ian in his "Notes."

Sir Norman Mighell, Deputy High Commissioner for Australia in London, who has been to many of our functions, received the C.M.G.

Miss E. M. Acton, Comptroller of Lord Roberts' Workshops, becomes a D.B.E.

Lt.-Col. C. Gordon Larking, late Chairman of the British Legion, received a C.B.E.

Miss Ellen Roberts, who was Matron at Stoke Mandeville in the war years and after, received an O.B.E.

Major Aldred Huskisson, Managing Director of Simpsons, Ltd., who has entertained St. Dunstaners often, also has an O.B.E.

From Holland

Rein Waas, whom many St. Dunstaners will remember at Church Stretton, sends his very best wishes of the season to all old friends at St. Dunstan's, and the boys he knew. Rein lives at Nijmegen now, and is a chief telephone operator of the Military Telephone Service. November 3rd was a proud day for him. The chief of the Military Telephone Service came specially to Rein's office from The Hague to award him the Bronze Medal for twelve years' service with the Dutch Army. Rein says: "When he pinned the medal on my uniform, it was next to my St. Dunstan's badge, of which I am very proud. In his speech, the Lieut.Colonel praised me on my work, and pointed to the excellent training I have had as a telephonist. In the near future I am to become in charge of a much bigger switchboard with an extra fourteen men under me. It made me also very thankful to St. Dunstan's, as from my twelve years' service in the Army I have been blind nine years."

Good wishes to you, Rein. We hope you will visit us soon.

Test Results

Typing.—T. Moorley, A. Lockhart.

Preliminary.—F. Lipscombe, G. Rignall.

Advanced (Interpnt).—H. Roberts, S. Blackmore.

Talking Book Library

November Newcomers

Another half-dozen releases this month brings a total of thirty new books in the last four months, some good, some bad, and some indifferent, but something to appeal to the taste of all. A mixed bag, including "A History of Europe, Vol. II," "The Ebb Tide," "Miss Josephine and the Colonel," "Trollope—a Commentary," "The Flying Saucer," and "Buried for Pleasure," I attempt to outline hereunder. "A History of Europe, Vol. II," by H. A. L. Fisher, reader Eric Gillett, is an interesting text-book which briefly covers the 17th and 18th centuries. Like most text-books, this has to be read several times if one's object is to learn a smattering of its contents.

"The Ebb-Tide," by R. L. Stevenson, reader Joseph McLeod, is a gloomy beach-comber's yarn of the South Seas which, though pleasant to read, hardly rises to the heights one expects it to reach, but the story remains full of promise right to the end, and when you take the last record off, you will feel that there must be more to come. The three main characters are easy to bring to life in the mind, and the lack of women is not a terrible loss, as they would be lost creatures indeed to throw in their lot with such a doubtful trio. Excellent, good i' faith!

"Miss Josephine and the Colonel," by Oriel Malet, reader Arthur Bush, begins with a bang in the form of an earthquake on the west coast of South America. The orphans resulting from this 'quake sally forth under the command of a fifteen year old to join relatives in France. This is a charming little story, and the children are happy after the first numbing shock and early upsets. Peaceful fun after the preliminary thunderbolt!

"Trollope—a Commentary," by M. Sadleir, reader Robert Gladwell, deals with Anthony, the novelist, and in the course of the commentary, turns the spotlight a little on the author's mother, a prolific writer. One gathers that Trollope travelled sufficiently, wrote largely, and hunted enormously, but the book is far too long and as dull as the period in which Trollope ruled as a literary giant. Read it, if you're a good stayer!

"The Flying Saucer," by Bernard Newman, reader John Marsh, is rather a favourite

topic nowadays, and in this fantastic thriller it is used as a means of securing peace on earth. The shifts and devices used are plausible, but just a wee bit "Ripley." This book is bracketed top of the month with "Buried for Pleasure," by E. Crispin, reader Robin Holmes, a thriller with Gervase Fenn, don-cum-investigator, officiating as hero in his spare time, whilst running as a candidate in an election. It is difficult to be sure which is the main thread of the story—the suspense part essential to thrillers, or the riotously funny sketches which make this yarn worth while without its two corpses.

December's Duet

1950 closed with a couple of additions to the Library, "Georgian Lady" and "The Garland"—both of which are period pieces.

"Georgian Lady," by Nerina Shute, reader Arthur Bush, is a biography of Fanny Burney, the novelist, who wrote "Emelina," "Cecilia," and many more novels of the kind. A shy, shrinking personality thrown into a smart, sophisticated literary set must inevitably be overshadowed by her companions until the final analysis is taken—so it was with this heroine. She became lady-in-waiting to Queen Charlotte, retired and married a penniless French emigré. A restful but unexciting work.

"The Garland" (Kristen Lavarensdatter), by S. Undsett, reader Joseph McLeod, is a third of a Norwegian 12th or 13th century saga, and this part is sufficiently absorbing to make one wish for the other two parts. The heroine is a wealthy farmer's daughter, and the story is too wild and eerie to condense coherently, but watch for the other two parts being recorded and then make a feast of the complete garland.

And now permit me to wish a very happy New Year to all who care to read this column, and I would add that if the books released in 1951 are as numerous and as good as those of 1950, there is plenty of entertainment ahead.

"NELSON."

Grandfathers

A. Lane, Cardiff; J. H. Parker, Oxford; W. Smith, Parbold, near Wigan (for the second time).

Blackpool Notes

December—and how grimly the month starts, and how warmly and friendlily it gives place to January and the New Year.

By December 22nd all seemed set for the Christmas festivities. Most of the “dear boys” were with us, and the Christmas spirit—not of the liquid variety—had entered the hearts of all. That evening the Red Cross cadets came to sing carols. Their sweet young voices gave joy to all.

On December 23rd a large party went to the Grand Theatre. “Harvey” was the play, and we noticed that very soon after the return of the party, the dining room was crowded with invisible rabbits.

Christmas Eve—Sunday—was a fairly quiet day, but St. Cecilia's Mixed Adult Choir came along in the evening to sing carols.

Christmas Day was spent, as always, in true party spirit. Father Christmas called at 11 a.m. and handed out the bursting stockings from the tree. The lounge was crowded with visitors. Our young/old friend, John Gott, acted as M.C., and our new/older friend, Mr. Bell, was Father Christmas. A large party, which included wives and staff, sat down to dinner, after which letters, telegrams and cards were read from friends all over the country.

We enjoyed listening to the King's speech and in the evening we had a very gay party—so merry that we could not close down until after 1 a.m.

On Boxing Day a large party went to Elswick by coach. On Wednesday, a happy party went to the Grand Theatre in the afternoon, and a small party went to the Under 30 Club in the evening. Walking home a policeman called us to order. We discovered the hour was after midnight—we were breaking the law!

Tommy Milner, representing the northern area, Albert Pimm representing the south, and Vi Formstone, representing our girls, were the first-footers on New Year's Day.

We had many gifts and our appetites were whetted by the gift of poultry and ham from George and Beryl Formby. The account: stood:—

Received: 1 turkey, 1 goose, 1 ham.

Despatched: 1,000 thanks, 3 hearty cheers, 30 offers to clean your windows.

May we wish our comrades and their families, wherever they may be, a happy New Year.

E. D.

From the Chairman's Postbag

From the Rev. Michael Norman, who was ordained by the Bishop of Dover, and is now Curate at the Church of St. Peter-in-Thanel, Broadstairs:

“We have now got well into our stride here. I find that I am able to get round visiting in the Parish quite well on my own. So far I have explored one part of the Parish very well and feel confident in going to any house in that area.”

Other News

Micky Fulbrook's red cocker spaniel won a certificate in the Kensington Championship at the Olympia Show.

★ ★ ★

Cyril Womack had a good write-up in the local paper recently describing his work at the shoe factory.

★ ★ ★

Bert Farnen is another who was in the news recently. Nice things were said about him in the *Manchester Evening Chronicle*. It began “Everything about Bert Farnen is big. His height (6ft. 2in.), his weight (14 stone) and the grin that's rarely off his big, amiable face.”

★ ★ ★

Leonard and Mrs. Arnold, who have been respectively secretary and chairman of the Wanstead-Woodford Circle for the Blind since its inception many years ago, were presented last month with a cigarette box and table lighter to mark appreciation of their work.

★ ★ ★

S. Purvis, of Seghill, won fourth prize in a leek competition—a very nice clock.

★ ★ ★

Alan Hold, of Yeovil, broadcast on the West of England programme on December 14th, with the Yeovil Temple Salvation Army Band.

Board Residence

St. Dunstaners visiting London for the Festival of Britain are cordially invited to stay at Mernay House Private Hotel, 53 Bembridge Villas, Notting Hill Gate, London, W.11. (Owned and managed by St. Dunstaner John Martin).

Ovingdean Notes

Once again this year our Christmas festivities began early. On December 18th the Trainees' Christmas Dinner and End-of-Term Dance was held, and the house had already been suitably decorated by that time.

We were very pleased to have Sir Ian Fraser with us on this occasion. Sir Ian, Commandant and Matron Pain all made short speeches, and the vote of thanks was proposed by Billy Burns—one of the several trainees who left us at the end of term and will be commencing work in the early part of January.

To all those trainees who are now taking up their new employment we send greetings and best wishes from Ovingdean for every success this New Year.

Towards the end of that same week the trainees having departed homewards, we began to receive the first of the men coming in for the holiday break—and so it went on until finally there were about 80 St. Dunstaners with us.

The Hall, Dining Room and Lounge were all most attractively decorated in completely contrasting ways—and a programme of entertainments lasting the whole of Christmas week began!

West House Notes

Our first Christmas back at West House was not spent quietly at all! The decorations began immediately one entered the front door, and the large Christmas Tree in the Hall helped—if any help was needed—to put everyone into a festive mood. All the main rooms were decorated—even the Sick Ward—and most effectively too.

On Christmas morning presents were distributed in the Lounge and in the evening we had a most enjoyable party.

The largest crowd crammed themselves into the Lounge on Wednesday, December 27th, when our Dance included an invitation to St. Dunstaners staying at Ovingdean—indeed the Lounge was not big enough to hold everyone and so a few “sat out” in the Hall. It was an evening we all enjoyed.

On New Year's Eve a fairly large audience was present at the Concert, at which the artistes were St. Dunstaners Harry Costigan and W. Robinson, from West House, and G. Killingbeck from Ovingdean, George Ball (West House Staff), Miss Carlton and Miss Smith (V.A.D. Staff, Ovingdean), and Miss Joyce Watson. After the Concert

refreshments, cigarettes and beer were served, and so we passed a happy evening until midnight, when we drank to the New Year.

To all our old friends everywhere we send greetings from West House for a happy and prosperous 1951.

Crisp Christmas at Ovingdean

It's going to be difficult to frame words to describe the unforgettable Christmas of 1950. Take the Regatta dinners at the Connaught Rooms, part of a Drury Lane pantomime, snow and winter sunshine, and a very merry company and then you might get some idea. The pantomime, “Smith's Crisps,” written by Miss Smith and rendered by the staff, brought to light unsuspected histrionic ability. Miss Carlton as the Fairy Queen has no peer. It was great stuff. That was on Christmas Eve. Later, in the lounge, Jimmy Edwards, the comedian, rounded off the evening with peals of laughter. Christmas morning, and Jack Reeves at the piano, “Farmer” leading the singing, and for four hours the place rang with the hearty singing of a hundred men. Then dinner. What a scene the dining room presented. A vast expanse of snow-white napery, glass, cutlery, fruit, crackers, nuts, and what a feast! This, with the beautifully decorated room—particularly must I mention the painted wall decorations executed by Orderly Frank Bickerton—will long live in our memory. In the forenoon the presents were distributed by Commandant Fawcett. What busy people Matron Pain and he were. Max Miller entertained us on Christmas night. The Fancy Dress Ball on Boxing Night was a great and gay revel. There are occasions in life when events soar to star-chipping heights. This night was one of them.

The Ball on New Year's Night found us all very pleasantly tired, but we got through it and rounded off one of the finest Christmastides in the history of St. Dunstan's—this was generally agreed. It looks like we shall have to book a bed for a long time before next Christmas arrives. I can think of only one adjective that will adequately describe those festive days—*smashing*.

From Matron Pain and Commandant Fawcett, down through the staff, right to the kitchen cat—thanks a million.

W. E. BROOKES.

The Grocers Entertain Us Again

At the Grand Hotel, Brighton, on December 5th, was held what must surely have been the most successful of the Winter Entertainments organised by the Brighton, Hove and District Grocers' Association.

The occasion also marked the retirement of Miss Beatrice Morley, for so many years Secretary of the Association. A gift of a travelling clock was presented on behalf of St. Dunstan's by our President, Sir Neville Pearson, who was accompanied by Lady Pearson.

Miss Morley, replying to Sir Neville's speech, expressed her thanks for the gift and reminded those present at the dinner of the occasion of the first Grocers' Outing, organised in 1928. Many St. Dunstaners present remembered this, and many have, of course, attended the two annual entertainments arranged ever since that time by the Grocers' Association.

To Miss Morley, in her forthcoming retirement, we offer our best wishes and the hope that she will often find time to visit our Homes in Brighton, and to the Grocers' Association we say thank you for another most enjoyable evening for St. Dunstan's men in the Brighton area.

Matron Pain writes

"My sincerest thanks to all those who have so kindly sent me such beautiful Christmas greetings. Each one has brought memories and I would have wished to write to each sender, but owing to the number received I will ask each one of you to look upon this little notice as a personal message of thanks and greeting."

January, 1951.

"Please Do Touch"

An Exhibition, entitled "Please do Touch," opened at Leicester Museum on December 19th, and continued until January 21st. It was designed to illustrate blind welfare and the place of the blind in the community, and also to appeal to blind members of the public. St. Dunstan's had taken a large part in the organisation of this Exhibition. Many photographs of St. Dunstaners at work were on show, as well as exhibits of many kinds of apparatus.

News from South Africa

A donation of £300 has just been received from a lady in the Cape Province. As is usual with such gifts, the generous donor wishes to remain anonymous, but we do know that this donation means something much more than just a sum of money. This dear lady is now in the evening of her life, and for many years has been a subscriber and active worker for St. Dunstan's and the Red Cross, raising money from the sale of her beautiful knitting, crochet and needlework. Such fine work required not only keen eyesight, but also deft and nimble fingers; alas, these fingers are crippled by the terrible scourge of arthritis, which has indeed crippled her whole body, so that she is now permanently chair-ridden. The once agile fingers are now twisted and deformed, but, undaunted, this little old lady still plies her busy needle. Her generous donation constitutes her life's savings, which were to have been used for a long-awaited trip to England to visit her relatives. Unfortunately, she is now too ill to make the trip, and so she has given these hard-earned savings to St. Dunstan's. We know that all St. Dunstaners wish her all the peace of mind and inner happiness which such kind deeds must surely bring.

Mrs. Chadwick-Bates tells me that the gift will be utilised only for special help to those St. Dunstaners who have lost a hand or have maimed hands.

JAMES ELLIS.

Laying Test Results

Second Period of Four Weeks,
November 5th to December 3rd

			Score Value
1.	Woodcock, W. J.	...	222
2.	Gregory, T. D.	...	188
3.	{ Smith, W. Alan	...	166
	{ Taylor, Tom	...	166
5.	Clarke, T.	...	155
6.	Jarvis, Albert	...	152
7.	Jackson, G. C.	...	108
8.	Holmes, Percy	...	97

Total 1388

Average per bird to date, 28.92.

Extract from "Comments" by the Management:—

"St. Dunstan's breeders have sent their usual neat and workmanlike teams, which will, as far as can be seen, carry on the high record established in this section last year."

"Arms and the Men"

At the request of the Government, a series of popular histories of the Second World War is being prepared by well-known authors. The first has now been published. It is entitled "Arms and the Men," and is by Ian Hay, who is Major General John Hay Beith, a member of St. Dunstan's Council.

The author records in his own way an account of the war fought by British soldiers in Europe, Asia and Africa, by the various auxiliaries, and by civilians at home. He discusses the qualities of the soldier, his arms and equipment, and the organisation that recruited, trained, armed, fed, clothed, equipped and moved him. His views on the modern British Army, which he describes as "the most efficient in our history," and his account of Army reform, going back to the days of Cromwell, will be of interest to every ex-Service man.

Christmas Competition Result

This competition proved most popular and many entries were received. The correct solution was as follows:—

1. HANDKERCHIEF (This be blowed).
2. INHERITANCE (Handed down).
3. REGISTRAR (Ties knots).
4. CONTRABAND (But this is banned).
5. SNAPDRAGON (Also has roots).

The winner was T. Floyd, of Teignmouth, who receives the guinea prize.

"Gen" North's entry was so good, however, that we make no apology for printing it. Here it is:—

"I Taut I Taw a Guinea Jig"

Just like Joe, I'll have a go,
This contest has me tickled.
I'll win the prize, then, you know,
I'll get like Wilfred, Pickled.
And when at last the puzzle's done,
Exhausted with my blarney,
You'll write and say "Good lad, you've won,
Give him the money, Barney."

"Fired hen hack"—this makes me scowl.
Sounds to me like business fowl.
Wilfred, Barney, Violet Carson,
Doing a spot of poultry arson?
Clue No. 1—"This be blowed,"
Sounds as if I'd god a code.
To rhyme with cunning gander, chief,
To stop nose running, "*Handkerchief*."

"Entire china," No. 2—
Naught to do with Mr. Wu.
I'd like to treat that guy severe
And put an end to his Korea.
The clue is given—"handed down,"
Could be big brother's trousers,
Or maybe mother's evening gown
Or elder sister's blouses.
On second thought I take a chance
And put the word "*Inheritance*."

"Sir Garter"—that is number three
Things that go above the knee.
Sure to give me great delight
To see a garter on a knight.
The clue is given just "Ties knots,"
Makes a guy break out in spots.
Varicose veins like outward dimples,
Addles brains and big goose pimples,
But I'll chance my lucky star
And say it is the "*Registrar*."

'Arf a mo, we have some more.
"Don't ban car," is number four.
"But this is banned" that is the clue.
All cars are banned for me and you.
O, setter of puzzles, don't be funny,
Us blind guys haven't got the money.
I'll make a bet, have I no takers?
This clue concerns the old moonrakers
Who searched the pool, long rakes in hand,
In search of hidden "*Contraband*."

"Pa Grandson" is number five.
From what can this tired brain derive?
The clue is given "Also has roots,"
So have my teeth, there's tongues in boots,
But I'm prepared to bet a flagon
The answer is just plain "*Snappedragon*."

No, Eddie dear, I'm fit to burst,
I'll meet you in the spinney,
Open up my letter first
And send me on that guinea.
What do I want this guinea for?
To buy the wife a pinafore,
Some lingerie of finest silk,
For puddy tat, a pint of milk.
To keep that feline's evil eye
From roving on poor "Sweetie Pie,"
Who has the feeling, most absurd,
That Puddy wants to get the bird.

"GEN."

(Our heart is wrung,
Although not out first
A guinea must award this outburst:—
"EDDIE DEAR.")

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Talking of West House, I went down into the basement one Saturday morning in February, 1936, and, chancing to meet the late Mr. Hawketts, commented upon the solidity of the foundations and stoutness of the brickwork down there. He said he would explain that later, and the following afternoon read me an account that had appeared in a local publication, which stated West House once collapsed and when nearly finished rebuilding, collapsed again. The crash could be heard as far away as Castle Square. Nobody was hurt, but a collection was made in Brighton and £40 raised to replace the workmen's tools. As a result, when the house was built the third time, special care was taken in extra strong foundations and walls.

Yours sincerely,

Southwick.

G. FALLOWFIELD.

DEAR EDITOR,

Please tell the world what a glad, mad Christmas we, nine St. Dunstaners' wives, had at Ovingdean. From the moment when we were all met, separately and fondly, by our Matron, until the moment when we had to say a regretful "cheerio," the time was packed with joyousness and gladness.

May we take the opportunity to thank Sir Ian and the other powers for the thought they must have taken to ensure such a time. Thanks a million, Comm. and Matron. Our hearts are too full to say much about her, but she surely knows what we all think of her.

One little word about our "sisters." Thanks, dears, for all that you do for our men in our absence, but oh, to be twenty or perhaps thirty at such times as Christmas.

Please, everyone, accept the deepest thanks of

NINE ST. DUNSTANERS' WIVES.

DEAR EDITOR,

As a wife I would like to convey many, many thanks to all concerned for the wonderful College reunion we had on November 25th. Men and wives alike had so much to talk about—old times of

College days were naturally the theme of the day. We all lived those happy days over again. I hope the suggestion of it becoming an annual feature will mature.

Miss Lloyd, Miss Miller and Mr. Scott certainly fulfilled one of their greatest ambitions with honours.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Woodley, Reading.

Holiday Accommodation

Mrs. McQuirk, of 24 Paganel Road, Minehead, Somerset, will be taking visitors for the summer season, and St. Dunstaners and old friends will be particularly welcomed. Further details and terms will gladly be sent on application.

Young St. Dunstaners

W. J. Harris, of Fareham, writes that his daughter gave birth to a son on December 9th, at the Holy Families Nursing Home, Karachi, Pakistan. Many St. Dunstaners will remember her at West House, with her son, "The little brancher."

Marriages

Rose Brewer, Hesketh Bank, to Mr. Raistrick, of Yorkshire.

Neville Evans, on December 16th, to Miss Maria John, both of Llansamlet.

Edward Payne, Cardiff, on September 2nd, to Miss E. V. Gay.

Birth

DODGSON.—On January 4th, to the wife of A. Dodgson, of Wimbledon Chase, a son—Paul.

Marriage

BOTLEY—VAN WIJK.—On September 20th, R. C. Botley, of Surbiton, to Eileen van Wijk.

Death

ROLT.—Our deep sympathy goes out to H. Rolt, of Eaton Bray, whose wife died on December 21st.

Personal

The Parents of Lilian Brown would like to thank everybody at St. Dunstan's, particularly Matron Pain and others at Ovingdean, for their kindness to Lilian and letters of sympathy.

“In Memory”

Private Edward T. W. Milliss, *Territorial Royal West Kent*

We record with deep regret the death of E. T. W. Milliss, of Sevenoaks. He was nearly sixty-six. Wounded at Gallipoli, he came to us in May, 1927, and was trained in wool-rugs and netting, but for a long time his health had been failing and he had done little work.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers at the funeral, which was attended by Mr. Ritchie, who had for long visited our St. Dunstaner.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Milliss and her two children.

Corporal John Davies, *Cheshire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. Davies, of Wrexham.

He served with his regiment from March, 1912, until May, 1916. He came to us in 1921 as a result of shell shock and gassing, and he trained as a bootmaker and clog-maker. He also took up outside work, but for a great many months before his death he was a very sick man. He died in hospital on November 22nd.

A wreath was sent for the funeral from the Chairman.

He leaves a widow and large family, to whom our very sincere sympathy is extended.

Private Frederick Frank, *Royal Scots*

With deep regret we record the death, on December 29th, of F. Frank, of Brighton. He was fifty-seven.

He came to us in December, 1936, when he trained in baskets and netting, but his poor health had for long made it impossible for him to work.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was among the flowers at the funeral.

Sergeant James Williams, *King's Own Royal Lancashire Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of J. Williams, of Hampton, Middlesex, at the age of seventy-two.

He was transferred from the Middlesex Regiment to the King's Own Royal Lancashire Regiment, and was severely wounded in 1917 as the result of a shell burst while he was attending a wounded comrade.

He came to St. Dunstan's in February, 1918, and trained first in boot-repairing and then took netting and backyard poultry-keeping. His health had for long been undermined and he died on January 1st after a long illness.

In spite of his poor health he made a hobby of his garden, from which he got much pleasure, and it was recognised as the best garden in the district. He was very proud of the interest it aroused in the Press and among his many friends and neighbours.

Sir Ian's wreath of poppies from his St. Dunstan's friends was amongst some forty sent for the funeral.

He leaves a widow, three sons and four daughters. All are married with the exception of one son, who is in the Merchant Navy and was a prisoner of war for nearly five years.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Williams and her family.

L.A.C.W. Lillian May Brown, *W.A.A.F.*

With deep regret we record the death of Lilian Brown, of Ilford. She was twenty-five.

Lilian's illness was brought on by exposure to intensely cold conditions when she was servicing planes. She had been ill for a long time, and for nearly the whole of last year was a patient in hospital, where she died. She became a St. Dunstaner in July, 1949, and her visits to Port Hall (by ambulance) and her connections with St. Dunstan's gave her tremendous pleasure. She was very brave throughout her long illness.

Her funeral was attended by representatives of the British Legion, Toc H, and the Red Cross, and a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was among the many flowers. Miss Cecil Wood attended the service at the express wish of her people.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Lilian's mother, father and brother in their great loss.

Lance Corporal Harry Nelson, *1st Somerset Light Infantry*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Harry Nelson, of Cheltenham, at the age of sixty.

Harry was wounded on the Somme in July, 1916, and came to us the same year. He trained first in poultry-keeping and mat-making, but later gave this up for basket-making. He had been in failing health, however, for some time, so that he was forced to give up working, and he passed away on January 12th.

A poppy wreath from the Chairman was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Nelson.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Benefits for Widows

HERE is some news for St. Dunstaners about widows. When a St. Dunstaner dies, St. Dunstan's makes a contribution towards his funeral expenses, in most cases paying the whole of the account. We also make a substantial grant during early widowhood to help to establish the widow in her new way of life, the average total of these grants having risen over the years with the fall in the value of money until it is now round about £125 in each case.

We are now offering to all St. Dunstaners in the United Kingdom and Ireland who are under 55 years of age a new scheme, as follows:—

All St. Dunstaners who are not in the present St. Dunstan's Widows' Insurance Scheme can leave things alone, which means that their widows will qualify for the grant I have mentioned, or they can enter a new contributory scheme which will ensure a sum of £500 for their widows. If the St. Dunstaner joins the new scheme, St. Dunstan's will put in a contribution equal to the present value of the widow's benefit and the St. Dunstaner will pay an annual contribution until he reaches the age of 65. Here are some examples:—

<i>Age next birthday</i>	<i>Annual Premium ceasing at age 65</i>
	£ s. d.
25	3 19 8
30	4 14 5
35	5 15 1
40	7 4 0
45	9 6 0
50	12 16 0
55	19 10 10

For those men whose ages fall between the above groups, premiums would, of course, be between the amounts stated, depending on individual ages.

St. Dunstan's will act as Trustee and when the St. Dunstaner dies, we will receive the £500 from the insurance company and pay the funeral expenses out of it, together with any other charges, and we will then, at our discretion, either pay over the balance to the widow or use it in such manner as seems best for her and her family. If the wife should die before the husband, then the husband will receive an insurance policy related to the payments which he has made, but the contribution that has been made by St. Dunstan's will go back into St. Dunstan's for the benefit of all.

If premiums are not paid by the St. Dunstaner regularly, we reserve the right to deduct them from any allowances or gifts which are due or may become payable to the St. Dunstaner.

I am sorry this scheme is only applicable to those who are under 55 years of age, but that is the way with insurance for, as you get older, the cost of cover becomes too expensive to be practicable. But there are some St. Dunstaners who are already in our pre-war Scheme.

Before the war we introduced a similar scheme for the older generation, and invited all St. Dunstaners to go into it, and many did. This scheme was based upon the attainment of a sum of approximately £300, and involved St. Dunstan's in putting up an average of some £75. In order to be fair to those men who went into the pre-war scheme, we now offer to make an additional grant of £50 to their widows when they die, in addition to the lump sum received from the insurance company. Or, alternatively, we would be willing to consider helping them to take out an additional policy, to which we would contribute about £50, and to which they would contribute proportionately. Since this can only apply to men who are round about the early fifties, it will probably be very expensive for the man, but we could at any rate look into each case.

It has always been our aim to do what we can for our widows as part of our great family, and very many years ago we offered to pay the employer's share of the Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Pension Scheme, and we have done so ever since.

We carried the same policy forward when the new Government all-in insurance was introduced, and are now paying a proportion of the contribution which falls upon every citizen. In addition, we introduced a little Widows' Scheme of our own for the small number of widows in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland who were not eligible for any Government scheme. Thus, St. Dunstan's has done what it can within the terms of its constitution and trusteeship to make provision for the widows of our men.

The members of our Welfare Staff and the Technical and Social Visitors have all been fully informed of this matter and will be available to give information. Those who wish to enter the Scheme or to consider it should write to the Chief Accountant at 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

An Important Report

Mr. Askew's ripe experience and ability makes him a leading authority in the blind world, and it is not surprising, therefore, that when the Minister of Labour set up a Working Party on the Employment of Blind Persons, in June, 1948, he should be asked to serve. The Working Party has now produced its Report, which is a most valuable document, and if its recommendations are carried out, the blind people of the future will greatly benefit.

The principal recommendation is that the St. Dunstan's method of general training should be applied more widely.

An interesting note on the Report appears on another page.

IAN FRASER.

First Wedding in the Ovingdean Chapel

On February 10th, the first wedding ever to be held at St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, took place. The bridegroom was John Simpson, of Waddington, Lincolnshire, and his bride was Miss Esther Ellison, of Bingley, Yorkshire. The Reverend Crane (Chaplain at Ovingdean) officiated, and the best man was Charles Redford, who is also a St. Dunstaner and a trainee.

Departures

G. K. Unny, of Travancore State, South India, returned home by the S.S. *Jal-Azad* on January 20th. He had brilliantly completed his training, and had passed the

Matriculation examination and obtained the Diploma of Public Administration. We send him our very best wishes for a most successful future in his own country and look forward to receiving news from him from time to time.

★ ★ ★

Eric Hailes, our Australian, left England for Melbourne by the S.S. *Strathnaver* on February 1st. He came to Ovingdean in September, 1948, and after preliminary training entered the Northern Polytechnic as a student piano-tuner. He most successfully completed his course and was awarded the Silver Medal of the Institute of Musical Technology, attaining first place in the final Terminal Report. Our good wishes for his success and happiness in Australia go to him.

War Pensions Debated in the House

As we go to press, a Debate on War Pensions has just taken place in the House of Commons. On Friday, February 16th, Brigadier Head (Conservative, Carshalton) in a Private Member's motion, asked the Government to review the rate of war pensions to conform with the national obligations, bearing in mind the increase in the cost of living.

Brigadier Head said that although much had been done in the matter of disablement pensions, this country had lagged behind other countries, such as Canada, Australia and France. He advocated a rise in the basic rate of 45s., dependent upon what the Minister of Pensions could pull out of the Treasury.

Mr. Paget (Labour, Northampton) seconded the motion.

In the debate which followed, Sir Ian Fraser dealt with the method of assessing the basic rate. Parliament and Governments of all parties had, until recently, taken the view that medical assessment was the right way and that hardship tests, etc., should be avoided. Now the old-fashioned means test was beginning to creep back. We must not go too far in the direction of making war pensions into a dole. Sir Ian referred to men with additional disabilities but who still got the same basic pension as the other man. He asked for a special basic rate for these men, or a special augmented attendant allowance. In many cases pensions and allowances had been practically doubled. He thought all ought to have been doubled compared with pre-war.

The Minister of Pensions, Mr. Isaacs, said the difficulties of the present financial situation must have full consideration in his approach to the points which had been made. He could satisfy the hope expressed in the motion that the Government should review the question of war pensions and allowances.

* * *

R. Gadsby, of Oakwood, Leeds, is a fishing enthusiast—he has special permission to fish in the grounds of Harewood House and in the waters of another estate near Wakefield. Last week-end he caught four three-pound pike, but his best catch was some months ago, when he secured a pike weighing ten pounds.

London Club Notes

The following Sub-Committees have been elected:—

Bridge.—Messrs. H. Gover (chairman), R. P. Coles and G. Brown.

Indoor Section.—Messrs. F. A. Rhodes (chairman), John Mudge and C. Brampton.

Outdoor Section.—Messrs. T. Gaygan (chairman), C. Stafford and A. Brown.

The Institute of Magicians has been merged into the Indoor Section.

On January 29th the St. Dunstan's Section of the Institute of Magicians held their annual Tea Party, followed by a Concert. The artistes in order of appearing were P. Ashton, H. Manning (ventriloquist), C. Luker and Smudger Smith. Our guest artiste was Rex Dainer, who seemed to produce everything from nothing; Oscar Oswald made an excellent compère, and John Bradbury played incidental music on the piano. At the end of the show, Madam Zomah, the President of the Institute, in a nicely-worded speech, congratulated the performers on the standard of excellence they had attained. They all hoped that more St. Dunstaners would take up this interesting and fascinating art.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge.—The Club has had one match this month, which was against Mr. Crane, of the Post Office, and we played three teams of four, making a match of twelve. The Club won all three sections and, of course, the entire match, the plus score being 3,780.

Our team in the Business Houses League won another match on January 26th. This makes five played, four won and one drawn.

For those who can manage Fridays, at 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., Miss Shammon and Mr. Fox come along to talk and teach bridge.

H. GOVER.

Indoor Section

If sufficient support is forthcoming it is proposed to have a coach trip to the Derby on May 30th. The price will be approximately £1, and will include coach to Epsom, admission to enclosure, picnic lunch and tea. Will all those interested please notify Mr. Willis, at the Club, as soon as possible and not later than Monday, March 5th.

On February 2nd the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Trophies dance competitions were held at the Chelsea Town Hall, when

our very good friends, Bob Henderson and Eileen Henshall, the world's undefeated professional ballroom champions, once again came along and judged the competitions for us. They then gave a most delightful exhibition of dancing. The successful entrants in the competitions were:—

Old-fashioned Waltz—E. H. Carpenter, Winner of Cup; C. Stafford, runner-up and £5 prize.

Foxtrot—C. Stafford, Winner of Cup and £5 prize; E. H. Carpenter, runner-up.

Congratulations to the winners and runners-up on their success, and upon the high standard of their performances.

This annual event was a great success, and we owe this in very large measure to Major Curtis (Public Relations and Publicity Department), who also acted as M.C., and Mr. Bob Willis, our esteemed Club Steward.

A Talk will be given at Headquarters on Friday, March 16th, at 7.30 p.m., by Major Geoffrey Harbord. His subject: 1951 Flat Racing.

FRANK A. RHODES.

Outdoor Section

With our usual good luck, the 6 miles Walk on January 27th brought bright weather and the field of eleven starters enjoyed the best race we have seen so far.

Billy Miller, leading for the first mile, surprised us, and although, due to lack of training, he fell back to fourth place, it showed that he will provide a danger in the near future. Our newest recruit, J. Fairgrieve, upset the handicapper; his improvement has been phenomenal. It was gratifying to all concerned with training to see seven of the competitors gain the coveted R.W.A. badges of merit for Walking 6 miles in the hour, especially Eric Hailes, who returned to Australia on February 1st. His speech of appreciation to his fellow sportsmen will be long remembered.

1951 Walks Programme

Mar. 31—10 miles Handicap Walk.

Apr. 21—7 miles Handicap and Championship Walk, open to All England, for Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prizes. Entries close April 7th.

Brighton—

May 19—"Farmer Cup," 7 miles Team Race and Handicap competition. Open to teams from London, Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool. Entries close May 1st.

Points awarded to London Walkers to date:—

S.S. Section		T.B. Section	
A. Brown ...	49 points	S. Tutton ...	57 points
W. Miller ...	45 "	J. Fairgrieve	52 "
P. J. Cryan ...	38 "	E. Hailes ...	50 "
A. G. Bradley ...	38 "	T. Gaygan ...	45 "
		C. Stafford ...	43 "
		C. Williamson	14 "

St. Dunstan's 6 Mile Walk Regent's Park, January 27th, 1951

Order of Finish	Time	H'cp All.	H'cp Time in H'cp.	Posn.
*T. Gaygan ...	54:00	Scr.	54:00	9
*A. Brown ...	55:42	3:00	52:42	7
*C. Williamson	56:03	3:20	52:43	8
*T. Denmead	56:54	6:10	50:44	3
*A. Bradley ...	57:58	7:40	50:18	2
*W. Miller ...	58:06	3:50	54:16	10
*E. Hailes ...	59:55	7:30	52:25	5
J. Fairgrieve	60:30	11:10	49:20	1
P. Cryan ...	61:44	7:15	54:29	11
S. Tutton ...	62:20	11:10	51:10	4
C. Stafford ...	62:34	9:55	52:39	6

1st Handicap: J. Fairgrieve.

2nd Handicap: A. G. Bradley.

3rd Handicap: T. Denmead.

Fastest Loser: T. Gaygan.

Starter and Timekeeper: G. G. Swan.

Handicapper: W. J. Harris.

*First seven qualified for R.W.A. badge of merit.

A Racecourse Concession for the Deaf

We hear from St. Dunstaner W. E. Brookes, of Southampton, that a special concession has been granted by the Racecourse Betting Control Board to allow deaf people to hand in written bets at the "Tote" on race tracks, both horse and greyhound. "Brookie," who has been campaigning for this for some time, has now received the following letter from the Director of Operations, the Racecourse Betting Control Board:—

DEAR SIR,

Messrs. Wetherby's have forwarded your letter of the 31st January to my Board, and I am to state in reply that every facility will be given to any member of the public who suffers from deafness to hand in written bets to the totalisator operatives. I trust this decision will remove any difficulty which hitherto may have arisen.

Yours truly,

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS.

February 8th, 1951.

This is a welcome concession to deaf people. It ensures privacy and makes it easier for the "Tote" operators and those waiting to place their bets.

The Blind in New Zealand

After the first war, Sir Clutha Mackenzie, a New Zealand St. Dunstaner, raised the Arthur Pearson Memorial Fund for the benefit of all the blind in that Dominion. Leading figures in New Zealand public life, including the Prime Minister, are now backing a great new appeal. An influential member of the Appeal Committee is Donald McPhee, a physiotherapist in Auckland, New Zealand, who has taken a leading part in blind welfare for more than a generation. Sir Ian Fraser has sent the following message:—

“Despite the beneficent activities of the State to improve the lot of the blind, there still remains much to be done to give them a fuller and better life, and there are still many people who are willing to make voluntary gifts for such a purpose. I therefore welcome the news, sent me by my St. Dunstan's friend, Donald McPhee, that a great new Appeal for all the blind is to be made in New Zealand, and I wish it all success. Those who do not see the sunlight deserve our help, but they can also serve the people if they are given the chance. A gift for the blind is, therefore, not only a Christian act of love, but also a means of bringing idle hands to the task of increasing the nation's wealth. Good luck to all blind people in New Zealand. IAN FRASER.”

In view of the fact that this appeal is for all the blind in New Zealand, including blinded ex-Servicemen who will benefit by certain general services and the representation to Government and public opinion of the needs of the blind generally, Sir Neville Pearson, our President, suggested, and the Executive Council of St. Dunstan's approved a donation of one hundred guineas to the Fund.

Fishing Tackle Wanted

T. Daborn, of Bexley Heath, is a very keen fisherman and he is anxious to obtain some secondhand deep-sea tackle (diameter of reel required, 6in. or over). If anyone can help, will he please get in touch with our St. Dunstaner. His address is 25 Pickford Lane, Bexley Heath, Kent.

Placement

W. J. A. Edwards, Brighton, as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. C.V.A., Coombe Road, Brighton.

“The New Beacon” in Braille

As from January, 1951, “The New Beacon,” the monthly journal published by the National Institute for the Blind, is being published in braille as well as in inkprint.

The National Institute also announces a change in its policy regarding braille “Pandas.” Since 1939, these popular braille books have been issued at the extremely modest price of 6d. net per volume. During the war years, when conditions prevented to any great degree the publication of new braille books, the Panda Series proved a great boon to braille readers, although the number printed had to be strictly limited. Since then, this “limited edition” policy has remained in force, but the Institute's Council has now decided that, although light and topical literature at a cheap price will be maintained, the books in this series will from now on be treated as other braille books. This means that readers may now select the titles they prefer without binding themselves to buy books which may not suit their tastes. Secondly, each Panda will now be a permanent addition to available braille literature—hitherto it has not been possible to reprint them. Thirdly, the price per volume will be based, as with other braille books, on cost of production, and will not exceed the maximum net price of 1s. 3d. per volume.

Thirty Years Ago

*Extract from the “St. Dunstan's Review,”
February, 1921:—*

“Although men at present in training at St. Dunstan's are now getting familiar with the new headquarters and workshops in the Inner Circle, nevertheless much of their surroundings must still seem strange to them. . . Let us enter the open gate and have a look round. Wheeling to the left we are face to face with the house, and there is our old friend Hetherington at the door ready to welcome us. Passing through the entrance hall we enter a very fine square inner hall, which acts as the centrepiece of this hive of industry. Directly in front of us is Mrs. Fraser's office, to our left front Sir Arthur's, and to our right front Captain Fraser's. . . Through the lobbies we arrive at what is known as the Library, facing which is the Stationery Department. To the left are the Treasury Offices, to the right the Secretarial Offices . . .”

Report of the Working Party on the Employment of the Blind

The Minister of Labour and National Service appointed a Working Party in June, 1948, to investigate the facilities existing for the employment of blind persons in industry and in public and other services, and its Report has just been published.

The Working Party consisted of seven members, two of whom were blind men, under the Chairmanship of an Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and National Service. Mr. Askew was a member of the Working Party.

The Report deals with the history of blind welfare in Great Britain since the setting up, in 1791, of the first Training Establishment for the blind, and refers to the contribution Sir Arthur Pearson made in founding St. Dunstan's for the care of soldiers, sailors, and airmen blinded in the First World War. Public opinion was focussed for the first time on the fact that something should be done to unify and standardise help given to all blind people, and this found expression in 1920 in the first Blind Persons Act.

The Working Party have not felt it necessary to consider the position of the war blinded in any detail, in view of the complete responsibility assumed for their training, settlement and after-care by St. Dunstan's and the Scottish National Institution, although a chapter in the Report is devoted to the work done for the war blinded and pays tribute to St. Dunstan's in regard to the results achieved by its men.

The Report stresses the fundamental fact that blindness is a handicap which can be, and in innumerable instances is, overcome, and goes on to say that employment is both a part of the process and its reward. The value of employment to the blind is that it enables them to enter fully, despite their handicap, into the life of the community—to live active, happy, cultured, and contributive lives of their own. On the other hand, the employer's position has to be considered, and the Report deals with this fully and frankly. It says: "We consider that when he engages a blind worker, an employer has the right to expect that it will be worth his while to do so. We do not wish to minimise the sympathy which is, and ought to be, extended to the blind

worker, but equally we do not wish to over-emphasize it. An employer has to make his business pay, and no plan for placing blind people in industrial employment can hope to succeed on any other basis than that the blind worker can and should do a full week's work in return for a full week's wage."

This is in fact the keynote of the Report. It contains recommendations for improvements in the existing methods of helping the civilian blind to help themselves, *e.g.*, by the expansion of facilities for their training in the wide range of vocations for which blind persons may be suitable; by intensive specialist services for their placing in occupations open to them; and by the breaking down of any prejudices which may still remain against their employment in "open" industry as distinct from employment in "sheltered" special workshops for the blind.

Frequent references are made in the Report to the work done by Local Authorities and Voluntary Organisations for the welfare of the civilian blind.

The Report shows that there are about 87,000 registered blind persons in Great Britain, of whom 36,400 are within the normal working age range of 16 to 65. Of these, about 11,000 are at present employed or training for employment. Among the remaining 25,000 of working age, it is estimated that about 3,000 would be capable of taking up employment if they were given the opportunity—that is to say, if the existing facilities for their rehabilitation, occupational training, and placing by specialist services were expanded and adapted to meet their needs.

The forms of employment followed by blind people in commercial and industrial occupations, in the professions and administration, in business, in rural occupations, and the public services, are explored fully.

The Report constitutes the first comprehensive study of the employment of the blind for some thirty years. It is likely to be regarded for some time to come as the standard textbook on a very human problem. The immense progress which has been made in the last thirty years or more is clearly evident from the Report.

The full report is available in ink print and braille. The former can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, price 1s. 9d., and the latter from the National Institute for the Blind, price 2s. 8d. (two volumes).

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I read with interest and complete agreement Sir Ian's Notes on braille. They must be most encouraging to many. I do feel that when we St. Dunstaners get our typewriters we forget the gentle art of handwriting. This is most useful on many occasions, *i.e.*, writing an address on a cigarette packet—only don't throw the packet away! Every letter can be written with or without the aid of a writing frame. I use a small writing frame, not unlike a child's abacus, and the pen I use is a Biro (designed by a St. Dunstaner). I write with my own hand all letters of congratulations and sympathy, and this extra trouble involved is, I know, appreciated. A few minutes' practice, with honest criticism, per week, and you can develop a hand of which you may be well proud. It must be remembered that we St. Dunstaners are lucky fellows. There are many blind persons in the country and they have never had a typewriter.

Before I close, if your typewriter goes wrong, you can write to St. Dunstan's about it and save your wife the trouble. Lord knows, she has enough to do these days.

Good luck. Good writing.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE MORTIMER.

Witham, Essex.

(George's letter was written perfectly legibly. Our Appeals Department would be happy if all their subscribers wrote as clearly. In a PS. he added that it was not checked by anyone as, obviously, the idea would be useless if someone had to dot the "i's" and cross the "t's"—ED.)

DEAR EDITOR,

The comments in the REVIEW of our Chairman, Sir Ian Fraser, concerning braille, were surely very wise, for braille makes a great wealth of literature accessible once again. Many treasures are to be found in the large library of the N.I.B. Then there are fine publications like "World Digest," "Reader's Digest," etc., with their often topical and interesting articles. These I thoroughly enjoy, but nevertheless I look forward eagerly to my copy of "Nuggets" arriving each month. Here is something

more intimate, for, with "Nuggets," one finds another link with St. Dunstan's. For example, an old friend may be named the winner of the monthly competition. One such was Johnny Loach, a good pal to me in my early days at Ovingdean. The competitions are a stimulus to the mind, and there's more in it than the welcome guinea which (sometimes) comes along. The articles themselves I have found to treat a wide range of subjects, but never too long. I have been adventuring in the Antarctic, I have shared in the thrill of capturing a large python alive; I have dipped into London's past and learned of the founding of the Polytechnic in the "not so good old days." Rested awhile at the Holborn Theatre and revived a memory of the "Gaiety" days. Went to the provinces and learned something of how Jesse Boot (the chemist) began, and back to London to hear how Chelsea F.C. gained admission to the Football League.

I have found adventure, thrill, knowledge and recreation. As a Methodist lay preacher, I have gathered more than one illustration from "Nuggets."

I should like to commend "Nuggets" to those St. Dunstaners who, as yet, do not read it. Besides giving enjoyable reading, its size makes it easy to carry on a 'bus, or short rail journey. And some new reader may have suggestions to offer, which I know the Editor will be glad to consider. Keep going, "Nuggets," and may the number of your readers increase!

Yours sincerely,

HERBERT DUXBURY.

East Didsbury, Manchester.

DEAR EDITOR,

Christmas was the first time that the girls have taken part in the festivities at St. Dunstan's, and I should like to send a thousand thanks to the Staff, and especially Matron Babineau, of Port Hall, for making our visit such a happy one. We joined in all the entertainments at the Centre and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Thanks to Matron Pain and the Commandant, who must have put in many hours of hard work to make the holiday such a success. We greatly appreciated it.

Yours sincerely,

BLODWYN B. SIMON.

Ruthin.

DEAR EDITOR,

Can you find a little space for a Turf Adviser, as I sometimes get information straight from the horse's mouth.

For those interested in the Sport of Kings, I have got one for 1951 which is a stonewall certainty. It is "Individuality" by "Confidence out of Determination," and cannot be beaten for the Go Get It Stakes. I recommend punters to have their maximum on this one and bet without fear.

For a long time I have been out early watching the candidates for the "Hangover Handicap." Self-pity can never win this handicap, but there is one that sticks out a mile and will always "go by." Back Moderation and adopt the "limit system" if you want really big dividends this year.

The best of luck to all!

Yours sincerely,

Portslade.

ALAN NICHOLS.

DEAR EDITOR,

I have for many years been interested in Dramatic and Theatre Clubs, and have had an offer made to St. Dunstaners.

The opportunity is given for a St. Dunstaner to take part in a London Theatre Club's production, and should any of our St. Dunstaners in comparatively easy reach of the Elephant and Castle area of London wish further particulars, would they get in touch with me?

Experience of amateur show business would be an asset, but is not essential. Of course, I must point out that this opportunity is primarily for the younger men, as the group in the Club are mostly in the twenties. Further, should someone come along fairly quickly, there is the chance of a small part in the very next production. This part is rather a good chance, in some respects with the advantage on the St. Dunstaners' side. It is the part of a blind man.

I would point out that such things have been done in the past, and what the first war men did the second war men can do.

I would take an active part myself, but other activities bar me, and I am also suffering slightly from *anno domini*.

I would add that one of the main producers is not unconnected with St. Dunstan's, and, in fact, was at one time a Sister.

Yours sincerely,

2 Trulock Villas,
Trulock Rd., Tottenham, N.17.

JOHN MUDGE.

Talking Book Library

January's Jackpot

Five rather interesting new volumes appear this month to give this year a good send-off for keen readers. The releases are "Bridie Steen," "The Gamester," "Even as the Sun," "Kim," and "The Day's Work."

"Bridie Steen," by Anne Crone, reader Anthony Macdonald, is a story of Fermagh, in Ireland, and the crux of the plot is the strong religious feeling prevalent in many Irish districts. Bridie, the heroine, is a poverty-stricken Catholic, whilst her lover is a reasonably "heeled" Protestant. The story takes place on the farm of Bridie's grandmother who, a staunch Protestant, is ambitious to "turn" Bridie before she, the grandmother, dies and leaves the property to her. Those are the rough bones of the yarn; the whole makes pleasant reading.

"The Gamester," by Rafael Sabatini, reader Jack de Manio, has the early 18th century in Paris as a background. The gamester plays to control the finances of the kingdom and fails by only a hair's breadth. The book is full of disturbing and exciting incidents.

"Even as the Sun," by Elizabeth Doylay, reader Richard Wessell, is the story of Henry of Derby, eventually Henry IV, and during his ups and downs from childhood to coronation, he is depicted here as a popular hero, such as Denis Compton or Bobbie Smith are to-day. The atmosphere is cheerful and colourful, full of intrigue and underground discontent, and the overall entertainment is good.

"Kim," by Rudyard Kipling, reader Norman Shelley, is the story of an Irish boy brought up "native" in India, and of his attachment to a wandering Tibetan lama. The boy has enthralling adventures and finishes up happily at the side of his master. A grand, gripping and powerful recital which I would have put as the book of the month had not

"The Day's Work," also by Rudyard Kipling, reader Eric Gillett, been released this month. This is a book of short stories which bears the mark of an inspired master craftsman in practically every single story. To read this book will nearly enable one to pay fuel bills without a tear.

Happier days!

"NELSON."

Notes from South Africa

Time marches on, and the general opinion is that it is marching in double quick time, in keeping with all our other 20th century bids for speed in everything. Here we are at the beginning of another New Year, and although these Notes will not arrive in time for the January REVIEW, nevertheless it is not too late for us to send to St. Dunstaners everywhere our very best wishes for all happiness and prosperity throughout the coming year.

During the past year we have received into our South African ranks six new St. Dunstaners. Whilst it is unfortunate that deterioration of sight made it necessary for them to come to St. Dunstan's, we are nevertheless glad to welcome them into our family. Two of these are now in training at Ovingdean, and we follow with keen interest the reports of their progress and achievements which appear in the Ovingdean Notes from time to time.

In Cape Town last month, we welcomed Polly Botha on his return to the Union and congratulated him on his achieving membership of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. We knew that he was glad to see us all again, but he could hardly wait for the departure of his train, which was to take him back to his beloved Transvaal. He has now taken up an appointment at the Germiston Hospital, and we all wish him the very best of luck in his future career.

In our country, where distances are so great, it is quite an event when two St. Dunstaners from distant parts meet away from their home towns. This happened when Jim Ellis and Johannes Dupreez, better known as "Dupe," met when they represented St. Dunstan's at the annual bazaar held in aid of St. Dunstan's by our East London Committee. Dupe demonstrated his skill at weaving before a very interested crowd of onlookers, and Jim kept many audiences enthralled with his addresses on St. Dunstan's.

Whilst in East London they met Colonel Woon, an old friend of St. Dunstan's. Colonel E. W. Woon will be well remembered with affection by all those who were at Tembani during the war. He was a very active member of the Board and is now a life member of St. Dunstan's, South Africa. All his old friends will be sorry to learn that the Colonel himself is having trouble with his sight. An operation for cataract

on one eye a few months ago was unsuccessful, and he is now quite blind in that eye, and the tragedy is that a cataract is forming over the remaining good eye. All his St. Dunstan's friends will wish to extend to Colonel Woon their sincere sympathy and wish him better luck when it comes to removing the next cataract.

Dupe explains that there are many advantages in being a "Ham," or amateur radio enthusiast, quite apart from transmitting and receiving messages. It seems that the "Hams" all over the country have quite a fraternal spirit prevailing amongst them. On a journey between Johannesburg and Durban, Dupe's train became derailed just outside a little country station, and the passengers were informed that they would be held up for several hours. Dupe suddenly remembered that a fellow "Ham" operated from this district, looked up the fellow's address in the telephone directory at the station and rang him up. The local "Ham" said he would come down to the station right away, and a few minutes later Dupe heard a familiar "calling-up" sign tooted out in morse code on a motor horn. He was taken to the man's home where he enjoyed a good meal and a very pleasant evening, and when he arrived back to the marooned train he had not long to wait before it was able to get under way again. He was spared that tedious and seemingly interminable boredom which one always experiences when confined in a broken-down train. It must be remembered that Dupe had never met his radio colleague, except on the air; a wonderful thing, wireless!

We are asking "Pop" Marais, whom many St. Dunstaners in England, as well as all South Africans, will remember, to write an article on "Hams" for our South African News Sheet, the first number of which will be issued early in April, and thereafter quarterly, and a copy of his article will be sent to the REVIEW in the hope that it may be of interest to other "Ham" and wireless enthusiasts.

Christmas and New Year Greetings.—

On behalf of all South African St. Dunstaners, we want to thank Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, and "All at West House," for their delightful messages received by cable, and all other St. Dunstaners in the Old Country for their greetings by letters and cards. It is delightful to us all to be remembered.

Brighton Notes

After the hurry and bustle of Christmas we, at Ovingdean, had expected a somewhat more peaceful month in January—but we most certainly had not reckoned on things being as quiet as they turned out to be.

On New Year's Day it all began with everyone in the building being advised to be vaccinated—and it was the same at West House. The first two cases of smallpox had been reported in Brighton. That, then, was the first step, but as the outbreak grew more serious it was decided that all holiday and convalescent visits to Ovingdean should be temporarily cancelled.

Brighton itself became quiet, and those of us who continued to visit the places of entertainment found them all half empty. According to the local press, the outbreak has cost the town almost £1,000,000 in loss of business.

The trainees came back from their Christmas holidays on January 9th, and as the term progressed so more and more entertainments were held in the house. A very interesting lecture was given on January 11th by Miss Sheila McKay on "The Defence of the West," and this was well attended. On most Sunday evenings we have had either a Concert or a Gramophone Recital.

On January 24th a small number of holiday men from Ovingdean, and some of the residents from West House, went off to Plumpton for our first trip to the races this year. They had a picnic lunch and, apart from getting stuck in the mud for a while, had an enjoyable day.

Mr. Cheesman entertained St. Dunstaners at another Dance at the Arlington Hotel on January 25th, and the usual Monday and Friday night dances have been held at Ovingdean.

Shooting

Here are the results of the last Team Shooting Tournament for 1950:—

No. 7 Team wins with 7 wins, no losses, followed by

No. 4 Team with 5 wins and 2 losses.

No. 6 Team was 3rd with 4 wins and 3 losses.

Highest aggregate individual score was obtained by W. Pollock (B/L) with 340 points and 9 pluses out of a possible 350. Runners up were W. Flowers and R. Osborne, both scoring 337 with 6 pluses.

The highest aggregate score for one team

was by No. 1 scoring 148 plus 2 against No. 8, out of a possible 150.

Congratulations to G. Robson, who scored a possible 50 plus 5 during his shooting. This has previously only been achieved once before, by J. Boyd.

The actual aggregate for each team during the whole competition is as follows:—

No. 1 Team 994 with 17 pluses.

" 2	" 963	" 16	"
" 3	" 984	" 15	"
" 4	" 993	" 18	"
" 5	" 982	" 19	"
" 6	" 849	" 19	"
" 7	" 1003	" 19	"
" 8	" 964	" 12	"

The possible for any team being 1050.

Sports Day, Ovingdean

It may seem a trifle early to mention 1951 Sports Day, but this advance notice is to let our readers know that we are hoping to hold the event in July this year. Further details will be advised in these columns as soon as possible.

Camp

There will be a Camp at Lee again this year, but the date cannot be settled until Naval Leave period is announced.

I have also written to the R.A.F. about another camp. I hope the dates will appear in next month's REVIEW.

A. SPURWAY.

The Deaf-Blind Reunion

George Fallowfield has written to us about his article, "The Muffled Drums' Reunion," in the November REVIEW. It appears that some confusion has arisen because he mentioned in that article that deaf St. Dunstaners were to have two *holidays* each year. He wishes to make it clear that he should have said two *Reunions* and not two holidays.

Ask and Ye Shall Receive

This fellow, North, is a wonderful geezer. Not only solutions, but on into rhyme. To me they were all the devil of a teaser, Good luck, well done, "Gen," 'twas an effort most fine.

And now it remains, Sir, to take off my hat To Competition Corner's new Poet Laureate.

H. A. H.

Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. T. Devlin, St. Helen's, January 9th; Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Fox, Horndean, January 21st.

Heralds of Spring

"Tea," chirruped the night orderly, "and the sun's blazing in at the window—like Spring, it is." I told him I had no biscuits. "Biscuits with your tea! Put a spring in it! Good morning."

I felt bellicose. Biscuits I wanted. Spring would come in handy later on. Miss de Fray was coming up as I was going downstairs. "It's quite springlike, Brookie; nice for the bees," she said. On the next floor Miss Carlton looked like "Spring had a'cum in," and the Sick Ward were in for bottles of it. In the lounge someone was singing "Springtime in the Rockies." Peevishly I toddled away to get my biscuits.

I passed a lorry standing before a fruiterer's shop; its driver craved my aid. A lady assistant had been standing on an upturned empty apple barrel, setting flowers on a shelf, when the barrel top caved in and she was now squealing and performing the hairpin trick inside it. We lifted the barrel, shook it, and the lady came and sat on the spring greens, thanking us breathlessly. Clutching my biscuits, I returned to Ovingdean. Meeting Fred Richardson and Bert Clevett in the vestibule, they told me I had to be vaccinated—at once. I linked myself to the tail of the "conga" line and was duly punctured. While awaiting my turn I discovered that my biscuits were not the sort to go mad about, and were quite uneatable. Everything seemed out of joint. It set me wondering whether the Heralds of Spring had, in a spirit of mischief, grabbed Gabriel's trumpet and tootled on that by way of a change.

W. E. BROOKES.

Miss Peacock writes—

DEAR MATRON AND SISTERS,

May I, through St. Dunstan's REVIEW, take this opportunity to say how very proud and happy I am to have been allowed to give my services to St. Dunstan's again, after so many years have elapsed, and I feel I cannot let this pass without saying how much I have appreciated all your kindness to me in every way during my short stay. If, at any time, you should need me again, I am always ready and willing to help.

Yours very sincerely,

West House.

L. PEACOCK.

Young St. Dunstaners

Kathleen Alderson has passed the Final Examination of the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors, and is now an Incorporated Accountant.

★ ★ ★

Dennis Coles won a £5 prize, awarded by Jonah Barrington in the *Sunday Chronicle* for correctly forecasting five of the seven chosen B.B.C. news-readers. No reader forecast the seven, or even six, but three tied for first place with five. Summing up, Mr. Barrington said "As this was a competition not only for a correct forecast but for the best reasons for those forecasts, I unhesitatingly choose Mr. Dennis R. Coles, of Woking, as the winner."

Marriages

Jim Davies, Sandbach, on January 27th, to Miss Josie Pemberton.

James Murphy, Glasgow, on February 3rd, to Miss Mary Beattie.

Births

DAVIES.—On February 9th, to the wife of L. Davies, of Purley, a daughter—Christine Anne Margaret.

RYAN.—On February 8th, to the wife of A. Ryan (of Australia, and at present at London University), a son—Paul Walter John. Mrs. Ryan will be remembered as Miss Chaddock.

Marriages

BOWER.—GOUCHER.—On January 24th, W. Bower, of Sheffield, to Miss Martha Goucher.

BRIGHT.—BURDEN.—On February 10th, B. Bright, of Birmingham, to Miss Doreen Burden.

SIMPSON.—ELLISON.—On February 10th, in the St. Dunstan's Chapel, John Simpson, to Miss Esther Ellison.

TAYLOR.—BATHAM.—On February 3rd, Richard Taylor, of Bushbury, Wolverhampton, to Miss Ann Batham.

Death

ALLEN.—Our deep sympathy is extended to W. Allen, of Torrisholme, Morecambe, in the death of his mother on January 12th.

“In Memory”

Private Gilbert Wilkins, *Labour Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of Gilbert Wilkins, of Bristol, which occurred in hospital on February 4th. He was sixty.

He was discharged from the Army in February, 1919, but it was not until March, 1937, that he came to St. Dunstan's. He trained then in basket-making, but for some years now had done industrial work in a factory.

Although his health had not been good for some time, his death was nevertheless unexpected.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his daughters and to Mr. Conway with whom he lived, and who gave him so much care and attention.

Private Harry White, *29th Canadian Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Harry White, of Thornton Heath, at the age of seventy-two.

Wounded on the Somme in 1916, he came to us the following February and he trained at baskets for a time, then netting.

He leaves a widow, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a poppy wreath from Sir Ian.

Private George W. Rickard, *Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry*

With deep regret we record the death of George Rickard, which occurred at West House, Brighton, on February 12th.

His discharge from the Army took effect in November, 1916, but he had come to St. Dunstan's the previous month. He trained with us in mats and netting. For a long time his health had not been good and he was a resident at West House for some time.

Wreaths from the Chairman, and from his friends at Brighton, were among the flowers at the funeral.

Our sympathy is offered to his relatives.

Private Joseph Braithwaite, *King's Own Royal Lancashire Regt.*

We record with deep regret the death of J. Braithwaite, of Preston.

Although he saw service with his regiment from 1914 until 1918, he did not come under our care until the early part of 1948. His injuries in 1915, in addition to damaged vision, included a bad gunshot wound in his right thigh. His age made serious training impossible, but he stayed for a time at Ovingdean and was happily carrying on with netting and rug-making when his death occurred suddenly at his home on January 18th.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

William Morris, *Loyal North Lancs. Regt.*

It is with deep regret we record the death of W. Morris, of Cowling, Chorley, who served in the Army from August, 1916, until May, 1919.

Although blinded and disabled as a result of gassing in 1918 he, too, did not come to us until many years later—in March, 1949. He was then a very sick man and training was out of the question.

After many years of suffering, he died at his home on January 17th.

A poppy wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers at the funeral, at which Matron Davies was able to be present.

We offer our sincere sympathy to his wife and son.

Private Frank Fowler, *2nd West Yorkshire Regt.*

With deep regret we record the death of F. Fowler, of York. He, too, suffered gassing in the 1914—1918 war after serving from May, 1916. He came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1918, but his ill-health made training impossible. For a number of years now he had been going slowly downhill, but nevertheless his last illness and death was a shock to us.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a wreath from Sir Ian. Miss Pease attended the Requiem Mass.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his wife and family.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 381—VOLUME XXXIV

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

ALL blind people are handicapped in walking alone. That is why in St. Dunstan's we have always emphasised the importance of acquiring and practising this difficult art. Many young men, especially those who had been in the Royal Air Force, wondered, as I did, if the marvellous powers of radar could do anything to help us. During the past few years we have made a serious and prolonged investigation of this matter. It has ended in the negative finding that good ears, good sense and a bit of courage are better than any mechanical or electrical devices. Clever ones will say "We knew this already." I think the investigation has been well worth while and the whole subject seems to me of sufficient interest to reprint in this Review an article written by Mr. R. L. Beurle, the scientist who undertook the work. He has now left us to go to the Ministry of Supply as a Government scientist and we wish him good luck.

The Advisory Committee of eminent scientists, under the chairmanship of Professor E. D. Adrian, O.M., F.R.S., who is now President of the Royal Society, will continue to advise St. Dunstan's on scientific matters generally, and we are grateful to them for their help. In addition to studying guiding devices, the Committee and its small staff have for some time been working on the new method of producing Talking Books by magnetic recording on paper strip, which would run for ten to fifteen hours. The experiment is nearing the point at which a field test will be made.

Helen Keller

Dr. Helen Keller has a world-wide reputation as scholar, writer and publicist. This is very remarkable considering that she has been both deaf and blind since she was a baby. She and her friend and secretary, Miss Polly Thompson, are old friends of mine and I had the pleasure of entertaining them when they passed through London recently on their way to South Africa. We were all astonished at the extraordinary speed, almost equal to that of ordinary conversation, with which Miss Thompson and Dr. Keller talked to each other on their fingers.

I am glad to hear from many of my deaf and blind friends amongst St. Dunstaners that there is some increase in the numbers of our community who have learned to talk to them by this method.

IAN FRASER.

1951 Derby Sweepstake

According to present arrangements, the Derby will be run on Wednesday, May 30th, and we invite applications from St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees for tickets in our own Derby Sweepstake. No other person is eligible to hold them.

Tickets are 2s. 6d. each and application for them should be made as soon as possible and will be received up to the first post on **Friday, May 18th**. Every application must bear the name and address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required, and must be sent to the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. Postal orders should be made payable to St. Dunstan's and crossed. St. Dunstaners are advised to send postal orders or cheques and not loose money unless it is registered.

The total amount of the money subscribed after the cost of printing and postage has been deducted will be distributed as follows:

50% to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse;

20% to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse;

10% to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse;

The remaining 20% will be divided equally amongst those drawing a horse which actually starts in the race.

Holiday Camp—Morecambe

The Middleton Tower Holiday Camp, Ltd., of Middleton Sands, near Morecambe, Lancs., have generously offered to give twenty-five St. Dunstaners and their wives a free holiday for one week at their camp. The directors of the camp have very kindly agreed to make available twenty-five chalets for this purpose. The date suggested is the week commencing Saturday, May 19th.

The holiday will be completely free except that those taking part will be required to meet the cost of return train fares from their home town to Morecambe. Arrangements will be made by the camp for St. Dunstaners and their wives to be met at the station and conveyed to the chalets.

Please let me know without fail by *Monday, 16th April*, if you wish to join this holiday party. It may well be that we will receive more than twenty-five applications, and if this is so it will be necessary to hold a ballot.

ALEX MACKAY,
Welfare Superintendent.

National Library Catalogue

The braille edition of the first part of the Library's new Catalogue, in three volumes, is now available on loan, or can be purchased at a special price of 3s. per volume.

Volumes 1 and 2 contain all the Fiction and Short Stories in the Library.

Volume 3 contains all the Juvenile Books, and all books in Uncontracted Braille, in Grade III and Grade 1½.

The address of the Library is 35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1, and 5 St. John Street, Deansgate, Manchester.

Standardised Braille for Five Million People

A standardised braille alphabet to serve five million blind persons in Asia and Africa has been agreed upon at a UNESCO Conference just concluded in Beirut, Lebanon.

Sir Clutha Mackenzie was Unesco's principal representative at the Conference, and also present was Major R. Bridges.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," March, 1921:

"March 26th will be the sixth anniversary of the opening of the Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Hostel at St. Dunstan's, in Regent's Park. Our readers will remember that for some months before this date the first half-dozen men who lost their sight in the war had been accommodated and were receiving training in a temporary establishment in Bayswater Road, but it was on March 26th, 1915, that Regent's Park became the headquarters of the organisation that now celebrates its sixth birthday. How strange it must be for Sir Arthur Pearson and the few members of his staff who recollect these early days to look back upon the milestones that have been passed . . . how proud must the Chief feel that the seed which his genius created, and which he and his assistants so devotedly cared for, has brought forth such splendid fruit. For what will posterity say of St. Dunstan's? They will refer to it as the outstanding piece of creative work undertaken by any nation on behalf of its disabled men . . . They will say that Sir Arthur Pearson taught his men to face the limitations of blindness as courageously as they faced their enemy in battle . . ."

London Club Notes

The 7 miles Walk on February 17th seemed in danger of being a swimming contest as the rain continued until shortly before the start, but fortunately held off until a few minutes before the last man arrived home.

Tommy Gaygan took the lead from the start and was never really in danger. The style of walking, encouraged by a special prize presented by Mr. Charles Harrison, and forced by the bullying of the escorts, was the best all-round performance to date. The prize went to C. Williamson, who also finished first in the handicap.

Again the handicap times of the nine competitors covered 3 min. 21 sec., and in spite of his penalty "Wee Macgregor" Fairgrieve finished in fourth position.

His Worship the Mayor of St. Pancras started the race and returned to Marylebone Road to present the prizes, and his friendly speech and manner were appreciated by all.

It would be pleasing to see some more young members turning out for training at Bedford College, Regent's Park, on Tuesday evenings, 6.30, and to hear of like activity in other centres, and to opposition to London in future events.

7-Mile Race Result

	<i>Act.</i>		<i>H'cap</i>	
	<i>time</i>	<i>All.</i>	<i>time</i>	<i>Pos.</i>
1. T. Gaygan	... 64.00	scr.	64.00	8
2. C. Williamson	... 65.37	4.30	61.07	1
3. A. Brown	... 66.04	3.40	62.24	6
4. T. Denmead	... 67.02	5.10	61.52	3
5. W. Miller...	... 67.19	5.10	62.09	5
6. A. Bradley	... 69.52	6.20	63.32	7
7. J. Fairgrieve	... 71.19	9.15	62.04	4
8. C. Stafford	... 73.44	12.05	61.39	2
9. S. Tutton...	... 76.18	11.50	64.28	9

Prizewinners: 1st Handicap, C. Williamson.
2nd Handicap, C. Stafford.
3rd Handicap, T. Denmead.
Fastest loser, T. Gaygan.
Style Prize, C. Williamson.

POINTS TO DATE

<i>S.S. Section</i>		<i>T.B. Section</i>	
A. Brown	65 points	S. Tutton	70 points
W. Miller	62	J. Fairgrieve	70
A. G. Bradley	53	C. Stafford	62
P. J. Cryan	38	T. Gaygan	59
		C. Williamson	34

Bridge

On February 10th, eight of our members paid a visit to the Purley Ladies' Bridge Club. Our "A" team won by 750 points and our "B" team won by 620 points, thus

winning the aggregate match by 1,370. On February 24th we had the pleasure of entertaining our old friend, Mr. A. E. Field, and his team of twelve. Our "A" team lost by 2,200 points, the "B" team won by 500, and the "C" team won by the small margin of 20 points. This means that although winning two legs, we lost the aggregate match by 1,680. In the Business Houses League, our team has won two more matches, and are now top, even if they lose the last match. There are nine sections of this League in London, and the winners of each section meet on March 20th for one great struggle for a Shield, to be held for one year.

Harrogate has been fixed for six days, commencing September 30th; the Brighton week-end has been fixed for November 3rd.

H. GOVER.

Indoor Section

Will all those who wish to enter for the Sir Arthur Pearson Trophy events please give their names to their respective Club organisers as soon as possible, and in any case not later than April 14th. Those in the London Club area should give their names to Mr. Willis.

FRANK A. RHODES.

From All Quarters

H. Marsden, of Fordingbridge, had the honour of being accepted as an Associate of the Kennel Club at their meeting on February 13th. He believes he is the only St. Dunstaner ever to have become an Associate of the Club. He is known as a dog judge and breeder of great repute.

* * *

When Sir Frederick West, G.B.E., gave a talk and film show to Manchester Rotary Club recently on "Disabled Persons at Work," he introduced to his guests our telephonist, J. McNicholl, who was one of those appearing in the films.

* * *

Percy Norris, of Nedlands, West Australia, sends greetings to all St. Dunstaners. In a cheery letter he tells us that he conducts three radio sessions weekly, called "Dedication to the Blind and the Voice of the Blind," for the Braille Society of Western Australia. He introduced the same radio session in Queensland, when he was there in March and April.

Electronic Guiding Aids for Blind People

By R. L. BEURLE

The following article appeared in "Electronic Engineering," January, 1951:

The purpose of this article is to place on record the results of experiments carried out at St. Dunstan's on electronic guiding aids. When, at the end of the war, the principles of radar became known, many people felt that there might be some possibility of applying the same principles in a portable device. If this enabled blind people both to detect and avoid obstacles they might be able to find their way about without escort to a greater extent than before. There had been earlier attempts to construct such a device. One of these made by Fournier d'Albe in 1918, failed because it merely indicated the presence of light and shade in any direction and, as it could not give any indication of range, obstacles could not readily be avoided.

After the recent war experimental work was started both in this country and in the United States, with the idea of investigating fairly thoroughly all the various possibilities. The aim was to discover whether any of the wartime advances in technique could be applied and, if not, what further advances would be necessary before a practical guiding device could be made.

The character of a radar beam, and in particular the wavelength, makes it unsuitable for locating small objects at ranges of a few feet. Because of this it is necessary to consider some other form of exploring beam, the most promising alternatives being beams of light and beams of sound and ultrasonic energy. The wavelengths associated with these media are shorter than radar wavelengths and the difficulties which would be encountered in trying to use a radar beam are thereby lessened. The basic principle of any guiding device would be similar to that of a radar equipment, that is, when the exploring beam is intercepted by an object the latter reflects some of the energy in the beam back to the instrument, where it is detected, and thus informs the user of the presence of an obstacle.

Essential Requirements for Guiding Aid

In attempting to design satisfactory guiding devices the following were taken to be the essential requirements:—

It should give the user sufficient information to enable him to walk, freely, at a moderate speed along the pavement or about the house. In order to do so it must detect and indicate the distance and direction of any obstacle within 6ft. in front sufficiently rapidly to allow him to avoid it. By "obstacle" is meant any object which he may walk into or any major depression or rise in the ground or floor. The device should be portable, i.e., it should not weigh more than about 4lb., and anything that has to be carried in the hand should not be greater than about 4in. cube. The device must be inconspicuous and must not make any noise which is likely to attract attention. If the device is operated by batteries, the replacement or charging of these must not involve great expense or be so frequent that it becomes a nuisance to the user. The device must work reliably under all normal conditions of use and must not be adversely affected by the presence of daylight or traffic noise. If possible a guiding device should do more, but these were thought to be the minimum requirements necessary in order to make the device acceptable to a blind user.

The design of any guiding device is inevitably a compromise between the conflicting requirements set out above. For example, it is desirable to use a reasonably wide beam, since an unduly narrow beam requires very careful scanning from side to side to ensure that obstacles are not missed. This takes time and can render progress very slow. Unfortunately, to detect objects at a given distance within a wide beam requires more power than is necessary with a narrow beam and this means increasing battery weight. Another disadvantage of a wide beam is that it is less easy to estimate the direction of any object because, for obvious reasons, a well-defined sharp beam is required for accurate location. In an acoustic guiding device this latter objection to a wide beam may be overcome because it is possible to determine the direction of an obstacle by using the normal direction-finding ability of the two ears used in conjunction. The choice of the most suitable design is also affected by factors such as the efficiency of the various types of transmitter and receiver, which may be used at different frequencies for beams of different widths. Because it was difficult to estimate

the practical effect of such factors it was decided that a number of devices of different types should be constructed. Thus, several ultrasonic devices of different types and two light transmitting devices were made and tested out over a period of several months with the co-operation of a number of blind people.

Light Transmitting Guiding Aid

Of the two light transmitting devices one employed a torch bulb as the source of light and the other employed miniature arc lamps, each of which sent out a regular series of pulses of light. The outgoing beam of light was split into a number of individual sections. The direction in which each section of the beam pointed was adjusted so that each section crossed the field of view of the detector at a different distance. Thus, when an object intercepted the beam at any given distance, only the light from one section was returned to the detector. In order to distinguish the various sections of the beam so as to indicate the distance of an object, the light in each section was interrupted at a different frequency. This was done in the case of one device by rotating a sectored disc in front of the torch bulb, while in the other the separate arc sources were arranged to emit pulses of light at different repetition rates, the light from each arc forming one section of the beam. The result in each case is the same. The presence of an object is indicated either by a note or by a series of clicks heard in an earphone which receives the amplified output of the photocell detector and the pitch of the note or the "click" rate indicates the range of the object.

All the acoustic devices employed the same method of range indication. It involved transmitting regular pulses of sound and arranging, in the case of the ultrasonic devices, that both the outgoing pulse and the returning pulse of sound reflected from an obstacle should be heard at about the same level in an earphone. In this way if an obstacle is present two "clicks" are produced in the earphone each time a pulse is transmitted. The time which elapses between the two clicks is the time taken by the sound to go to the obstacle and back, and is therefore proportional to the range of the obstacle. It has been found that the variation of this

time separation as the range of an obstacle varies can be detected quite easily and serves as a useful indication of the range. Thus, when an obstacle comes within the range of the beam, the succession of pairs of "clicks" is heard as a "buzz" and this buzz has a characteristic pitch which rises higher as the obstacle is approached by the person carrying the instrument.

This is, of course, only one of many ways in which the range may be indicated aurally. The reason for adopting the method described above was that the circuits involved were the simplest and the tolerance on supply voltages was less critical than in other cases, an important factor where battery supplies are used.

Ultrasonic Guiding Aid

In three of the ultrasonic devices the beam was made narrow enough for the direction of the object to be found by scanning the beam from side to side. These three devices, although otherwise similar, worked at widely different frequencies. The purpose of this was to enable the characteristics of different wavelengths used in a guiding device to be investigated. In another ultrasonic device a wide beam was transmitted. Reflections from obstacles were received on two separate pickup transducers. The transducer output passed through a two-path amplifier, incorporating a detector stage, to two separate earphones so that the natural direction-finding ability of the two ears could be utilised.

The "Clicker" Device

When a practical comparison of the various devices was made it was found that one device in particular stood out as being more likely to achieve popularity. This was a relatively simple device in which a source emitting audible clicks was placed near the focus of a parabolic reflector to produce a fairly wide beam with a concentration of sound towards the centre of the beam. No internal sound detector was provided, the intention being that the user should listen directly to the sound reflected from any obstacle. This made possible a device with a relatively low bulk and weight and a longer battery life than the others. It is probably these two factors, as much as anything, which counted against the other devices, all of which incorporated internal detectors for the reflected energy. Another

advantage of omitting the internal detector and amplifier system is that all the information which may be obtained from the nature of the reflections is preserved intact. Much of this is lost if the echo is heard through an amplifier, in which some distortion is unavoidable because the power consumption must be reduced to a minimum and the sensitivity kept high.

The choice of a succession of clicks as the best form of sound to employ in this device was based on a series of tests in which a number of blind people were asked to detect certain objects with the assistance of a variety of different sounds. Although the clicks were not the best under all circumstances they did give the greater amount of assistance under a wide range of different conditions. The composition of the sound beam, i.e., a wide beam with a concentration of sound on the centre line, was also chosen as a result of tests with various types of beam. It was found that the concentration of sound in the centre of the beam made it possible to pick out objects such as trees, pillar boxes, etc., some way ahead on the line of advance in the presence of larger objects close beside the user. On the other hand, the presence of at least some sound radiated towards each side made it possible to estimate the position of, for example, a wall beside which the user was walking, so that he could keep his distance from it without the necessity of continuously swinging the beam round towards it. These factors did not greatly alter the reliability or the accuracy with which an object could be located. They affected rather the speed with which an object could be detected and by rendering a complex scanning technique unnecessary made it possible to move at a reasonable walking pace. This simple acoustic device, which became known as the "Clicker," had two marked disadvantages when considered as a guiding device. One was that when the device was used in heavy traffic the noise drowned the sound emitted by the device and made it quite impossible to hear echoes from any obstacle. The other disadvantage was that the device, because it made an audible sound, occasionally drew the attention of some passer-by.

Results with the "Clicker"

To reduce the considerable expenditure of time which thorough training in the

use of the devices involves, it was decided to test only the clicker device extensively. The object being to ascertain the reaction of blind people to using such devices, care was taken to minimise the known disadvantages of the clicker, e.g., by avoiding heavy traffic noise. Three groups of totally blind people, ex-Servicemen at St. Dunstan's, a number of adults who had been blind since childhood and children from three schools in the London area, were given training in its use.

The results of the tests were at first very encouraging. Blind men who already had some experience in getting about alone found that the clicker device could pick up many objects of whose presence they had previously been ignorant. People with less experience were surprised not so much at the information provided by the clicker which they were initially less able to appreciate, but at the fact that they could walk about unaided at all. Nearly all were keen on using the device and many inquired about the possibility of having one for personal use. Later the attitude of many changed. The more experienced found that the extra information provided by the clicker, though useful in strange surroundings, did not make much difference on routes which were familiar. The less experienced also, as they learned to use the device, learned in addition much about their surroundings which enabled them to move more freely even without the clicker than they had been able to do previously. As they thus gained in experience their outlook tended more towards that of the blind man who always had been able to find his way around. Thus, the device, while apparently useful in initiating people into the appreciation of echoes, would very probably be discarded later.

The period of training at the three schools culminated in a test in which the children were allowed to find their way, under supervision, but without assistance, along an unknown route. The results are interesting in that they show how the speed with which a route is traversed increases as the route becomes familiar even if, as in this case, the route is only being traversed for the second time and in the opposite direction. The average speed at which test routes were covered with the clicker on the outward journey was 2.0 m.p.h., while without any form of aid it was 1.6

m.p.h. On the return journey, when the children knew the route because of their experience on the outward journey, the average times were 2.5 m.p.h. with the clicker and 3.0 m.p.h. without the clicker. It seems significant that the differences between outward and inward speeds, with and without the clicker, showed the same trend at all three schools. These speeds show clearly that, as far as speed alone is concerned, the device was only of assistance when the route was unfamiliar.

Conclusion

When these tests were complete the conclusion was reached that neither the clicker device nor any other device which could be envisaged at the present time is likely to become popular among blind people. The principal reason for this adverse conclusion about guiding devices is that not all blind people have the ability and inclination to learn to use them. A man who has can usually learn to find his way about unassisted to a far greater extent than the average blind person does. With the aid of nothing more than a walking stick he can find his way to and from work or to a friend's house in the evening, or on any similar journey which he knows well. It is thought that the percentage of blind people who can do this is not as high as it might be, principally because many of the blind people who do not find their way around to any extent were never encouraged to do so, and in many cases were actively discouraged. Many are vaguely aware that they can "sense" a large obstacle, but do not realise they are detecting it by means of echoes of their own footfalls. Few of them know how best to put this faculty to use.

It is with this in mind that we would stress the value of the opportunity for the blind to learn route finding as children if possible, and of deliberate instruction of children and newly-blinded adults with the co-operation of blind adults who are experienced in this. It is considered that if such instruction was given the clicker device would probably be useful initially as an aid in teaching blind people to appreciate the significance of echoes if they were not already able to do so. It is anticipated that in most cases the clicker would be discarded once the person concerned had made good progress, but it is possible that a small percentage would retain one if given the opportunity. Most

would, no doubt, make use of the usual white walking stick which, besides aiding balance, acts as a guard in case of a collision, and draws attention when its owner wants assistance in, say, crossing a road.

Just Thoughts

On record, in the premature twilight of my years, I thank God,
And thank him for Sir Arthur, Sir Arthur's way of doing good.
Our Founder who, through love and thought, St. Dunstan's created
And proved that in this life the blinded could be reinstated.
I thank, too, Sir Ian, and all his happy band
For continuing the work so well—all those who understand.
And now thank you, St. Dunstan's, for what you've done for me.
Thank you, my wife, now doing the work of two, and sometimes three.

REES WARREN.

Happy Childhood

Oh, what happiness is yours, unsought,
Passed down the ages from time untaught,
When nature's joy was easily caught,
And pleasure gained without being bought.
God ne'er made a sight more fair
Than joyful children free from care,
Playing games in His fresh air
With happy parents watching there.
Each childish face an open flower,
Eyes sparkling like the dewdrops' shower
Not yet touched by those desires
Which drag poor humans through the mire.
List to that entrancing sound
In country lane or busy town,
Like cadenc'd water seaward bound,
'Tis heaven's echo reaching ground.
Now darkening shadows bring the night
And tired senses steal the light.
For you Aladdin's lamp burns bright
And fairy princes show their might.
When of sleep, you've had your fill,
And sun's bright gold tops the hill,
Awake, sweet ones, and do God's will,
Bring solace to a world that's ill.
Oh, what happiness is yours, unsought,
Passed down the ages from time untaught,
When nature's joy was easily caught
And pleasure gained without being bought.

T. ROGERS.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

This being the 36th anniversary of the foundation of St. Dunstan's I would like to pay a personal tribute to the memory of our beloved Chief, Sir Arthur, and to all those who have passed over who played such a wonderful part in the formation of our great organisation.

In those far-off days of the House, College and Bungalow, pictures were created in my mind of grand exhibitions of friendship amongst those voluntary workers, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking those friends who are still with us for all they meant to me, and I wish them a very happy Easter.

A year ago I made a Garden of Remembrance to Sir Arthur, and in June a Memorial Garden to celebrate the anniversary of Sir Arthur being created a Baronet. I would like to invite all friends visiting Brighton to come along, where there will be a welcome and a cup of tea at Rose Bungalow. The gardens are ablaze with spring flowers, and will receive constant attention during my lifetime.

Yours sincerely,

Rose Bungalow,
97 Mile Oak Road,
Portslade, Sussex.

ALAN NICHOLS.

Sergt. Alan Nichols will be glad to send a free copy of his poem, "St. Dunstan's," written in January, 1918, to any reader who cares to apply for it.

DEAR EDITOR,

While I do not want to put obstacles in the way of those interested in handwriting for the blind, there is a point to be remembered, a vital point, and that is that a blind person cannot tell when a pen has run dry and a pencil has worn down. I am, of course, speaking of a fountain pen. I can put you in touch with sighted deaf people who have had a headache presented to them in the form of a handwritten letter by a blind person.

I am aware, of course, that a typewriting ribbon can both wear and break, but if you want to be perfectly sure when alone, you can use a sheet of carbon paper for either the typewriter or a pencil.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE FALLOWFIELD.

Talking Book Library

February's Five

A fine mixed nap hand of books was reduced to grooves this month as we all sneezed and cursed the weather. "Tschiffeley's Ride," "Dancers in Mourning," H. G. Wells' "Short Stories," "Vision Ahead," and "An Anthology of English Verse," are the titles of this better than average batch.

"Tschiffeley's Ride," by the rider himself, reader Gordon Little, is an account of a perilous journey over land from Buenos Aires to Washington with two Patagonian horses only. Ten thousand miles of every variety of foulest possible going command the respect and admiration of all for horses and rider alike. The book is interesting, rich in anecdote and incident, but for myself I would have preferred an abridged version.

"Dancers in Mourning," by Marjorie Allingham, reader Gordon Little, is a thriller set amidst the private lives of a ballet group, and Mr. Campion is to the fore as usual in solving the problems presented by several sudden deaths. Good entertainment!

H. G. Wells' "Short Stories," reader Norman Shelley, are good, diverse examples of fine, literary craftsmanship. They are all complete stories, and H.G.W. does not, as the modern short-story writer often does, leave the reader suspended in the middle to finish the yarn by his own imagination. Some pleasant, some thrilling, but all full of pith and power!

"Vision Ahead," by Air Commodore Huskinson, reader Arthur Bush, is the story of the development of armaments and munitions in the R.A.F. Although the Air Commodore lost his sight in 1941, he remained head of his department to the end of the war; his book is clear and informative.

"An Anthology of English Verse," by various poets and involving various readers, is a masterpiece of reading, recording, arrangement and selection. Poems of affection, laments, lyrics, songs, sonnets, in fact, every kind of poem, are included in this little eight-record triumph. Library members are permitted to purchase this. Catalogue number, 688, and all details from the Librarian.

N.B.—To wives: The Anthology might settle your birthday worries for the old boy!
"NELSON."

A Word to the Wide

I was getting fatter. Buttons on my coat and waistcoat were flying around like popcorn. A tailor put in gussets, inserts, and wedges, which stopped the decapitation of the buttons, and I laughed at the world. But my daughter severed my jocular veins and demanded that I do some slimming.

Rebelling at the constant reiteration of the unhappy truth of my girth, I went to Ovingdean, and our M.O. prescribed a slow, palatable, effective diet, which I applied steadily at home. In five months I shed eighteen pounds of avoirdupois, and my clothes hung upon my frame like a deflated bladder; more, my trousers were now too long and the turn-ups slid under my heels, so that I walked on them. I called on my married daughter and asked would she cut off the turn-ups and make new ones. She was busy, but promised her aid in a day or so. Home again, I pleaded with my daughter who ministers to our wants, and she said she'd do it during the evening, which she did. My married daughter called the next day while we were out and, ever dutiful, gathered tools and my trousers, cut off the turn-ups, made new ones, brushed, dampened and pressed, and replaced them in the drawer. She then returned to her own home. I had walked through torrential, spearing rain, and needed to change my clothes. I did so. I stretched a hand forward to feel where my toes had gone to so quickly, and discovered that I now had a pair of knickerbockers with turn-ups! Back to the tailor who, with praiseworthy dexterity and camouflage, handed me back my trousers with no trace of a turn-up.

To my friends of lumbering corpulence, who feel they would like a little medical, internal spoke-shaving, get it done, certainly, but do not buy new outer garments until you have completed your dethickening gastronomic course.

W. E. BROOKES.

Braille Correspondent Wanted

A young Australian service man who has been studying braille has asked, through the Lord Mayor, to be put in touch with blind persons of his own age (twenty-five). The Editor will be glad to send his address to anyone interested.

Underneath the Stand

After a football match, the players and officials trot away down through a tunnel to some unexplored place, strictly private, not to be frequented by all those "fans," who only see the green rectangle and white lines.

A short while ago it was my chance to visit these places when, on a wet, blowy Sunday morning, I was escorted by Len Duquemin over, or should I say under, the 'Spurs ground.

Being Sunday there was very little activity—just an assistant trainer or two, and a couple of "nursery lads" chatting and tidying up from the previous day's game.

Passing beneath a very old horsehoe, nailed over the home team's door, which shoe is touched by all players ere they run on to the field for a game, we entered the dressing room. It was large, airy, and yet, despite the austerity of a dressing room, warm and comfortable. From this room entry can be obtained to all the other parts of the training quarters. I visited the bathroom, where there are two normal slipper baths, two showers, and the communal baths, these latter being three feet deep, and may be best described as one large bath about twenty feet by ten feet, divided centrally by a tiled wall. Here the players can, after a match or hard training, just slip out of the shorts and sweater and plunge straight into the warm, soothing water, splash around, swim, or just wallow, then, if the desire is present, pop over the division wall into a cold plunge. These baths are white tiled and are not sunken, but built up on floor level.

The player can then pass into the dressing room direct and immediately dress; thus risk of chill or cold is avoided. Having dressed, the player takes his gear into the locker room, with its rows of lockers, open fronted, and a small table in the centre for the trainers to clean the boots, prior to hanging them up on hooks high over warm pipes, which enables the boots to dry slowly, and the oils to work into the leather. Each locker contains running shoes, gym shoes, and a track suit. Beyond this locker room is the drying room, where the shorts, shirts, etc., can be dried in a sort of airing cupboard. This avoids chill or dampness when the togs are worn next. The laces, stocking tapes, etc., are all hung separately, and so when the laces are placed in the

boots it is easy to see if they need renewing. A broken lace in a match may mean defeat.

From this point we pass the referee's room, the visitors' room, and so on to the gymnasium. Like all gyms, it is large, very airy, and equipped with all the paraphernalia of such places, punch balls, medicine balls, rowing machines, ropes, etc. On this cold, wet Sunday it did not appeal!

Passing back to the dressing room centre spot, one passes the dining room, where the single players living in lodgings, and the training staff desirous of so doing may have a good midday meal, on all days of the week. Beyond the bathrooms, one enters the medical room. Here a physio-therapist would be indeed happy. Warm, comfortable, carpeted, and decorated I understand, in a gentle green. In the centre stand two plinths, modern, with all the linen, blankets, etc., ready on the top. Around the walls stand deep ray equipment, short wave, sun lamps, and so forth. By the side of the heat room is the "kennel," the heat treatment arch which can be placed over the back or legs to assist treatment of injury. The next corner holds the bicycle, with its hydraulic braking to make the pedalling harder; this instrument of torture is used for knee injuries, to gradually strengthen and strengthen. The last corner houses a shallow foot bath, with a hose attachment, fitted with a patent nozzle, which enables one to alternate hot and cold water direct on to a bruise or very local injury. In this room are smaller cupboards, holding all the emergency bandages, splints, etc.

I left the training quarters with a softly playing radio dispensing music and, crossing the perimeter running track, passed the recreation room, with its table tennis, billiards, etc., and remarked to one trainer, "The players should be all right, all the stuff in there must have cost something." He replied, "Well, you can buy a racehorse for a few hundreds, but a good soccer player may be worth £20,000."

JOHN A. MUDGE.

★ ★ ★

The REVIEW in braille would be very much appreciated by Mr. Lenny W. Veysey, who is President of the Michigan Council of the Blind, 403 S. Bond Street, Saginaw, Michigan, U.S.A. Would some St. Dunstaner care to send it on to him each month?

Ovingdean Notes

Easter Programme at Ovingdean

We shall be very pleased to see any St. Dunstaners who would like to come along to any of the following items during our Easter programme:—

Good Friday, 23rd March—8 p.m., Play Reading by Staff.

Easter Sunday, 25th March—7.30 p.m., Concert.

Easter Monday, 26th March—8-11 p.m., Gala Dance.

Friday, 30th March—8-10 p.m., Dance.

Saturday, 31st March—Whist Drive and Domino Tournament for local St. Dunstaners, 8 p.m.

Sunday, 1st April—Informal Concert, 8 p.m.

Monday, 2nd April—8-10 p.m., Dance.

Chapel Services during Easter

Good Friday, 5.15 p.m.

Easter Sunday, 10 a.m., Communion.
5.15 p.m., Evensong.

Sports Day, Ovingdean

We are pleased to tell you that the date for Sports Day has now been fixed for Saturday, 21st July. The events will be publicised later and it is hoped that we shall have record entries from the Clubs and individual St. Dunstaners this year.

Camps

The R.N. Barracks (Lee-on-Solent) Camp will be held from Friday, August 10th, until Saturday, August 18th.

The R.A.F. (Shawbury) Camp will be held from Saturday, July 7th, until Saturday, July 14th.

Will you please send your entries as soon as possible, and in any case not later than May 4th, to Miss MacRae, St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, when there will be a draw for beds at Lee. Those lucky in the draw will be notified as soon as possible.

Holiday Accommodation

Margaret Stanway and her mother have opened a boarding house at Morecambe and would be glad to welcome other St. Dunstaners for a holiday. There is room for children too. Margaret's address is 13 Grove Street, Morecambe.

Just a Few Lines— from Blackpool

'Twas a pity we missed the last REVIEW
 With Blackpool news so bright and gay.
 A visit to Elswick—Boot and Shoe,
 For drinks on the eve of New Year's Day.
 On Jan. the 5th—Seafield Hotel,
 A dinner party to which Miss Lord
 Invited local troops and wives
 To join us at the festive board.
 Jan. twenty-three we went by car
 To Queen's Hotel—again to spree.
 A seven-course dinner so rich and rare
 Was followed by smokes and drinks—all
 free.
 Variety entertainment after
 Roused our laughter in mighty peals,
 Good turns included Harry Korris and
 partner
 And old-time songs by Ella Shields.
 The month of Feb. was rather quiet,
 Few days brought rain but many brought
 sun.
 On twenty-seventh we went to Scorton,
 First outing to tea in '51.
 Forgive my writing our news in rhyme,
 But strictly speaking, 'twixt you and me,
 Blackpool sea air is so like wine
 It's gone to the head of B. V-D.

Braille Reading Competition

The 22nd meeting of the "E. W. Austin"
 Memorial Reading Competition will be held
 at the National Library on Saturday,
 June 2nd. There will be three Adult
 Classes:—

Class A: Advanced readers in competition
 for the Blanesburgh Cup.

Class B: Other readers.

Class C: Readers who have learned to
 read braille since the age of 16 and who do
 not feel competent to enter the more
 advanced class. This class will be divided
 into

- (1) Readers who lost their sight before
 1938.
- (2) Readers who have lost their sight
 since 1938.

Intending competitors should send in
 their names to the Secretary, National
 Library for the Blind, 35 Great Smith
 Street, Westminster, S.W.1, not later than
 Tuesday, May 22nd.

The Library will be delighted to welcome
 St. Dunstaners to the competition.

Births

BAGWELL.—On February 24th, to the wife
 of P. Bagwell, of Charlton Mackerell,
 Somerset, a daughter.
 BARTON.—On February 15th, to the wife
 of S. Barton, of Liverpool, a son.
 BEKHRADNIA.—On February 4th, to the
 wife of S. Bekhradnia ("Shahri"), a
 daughter—Ravan.
 FOWLER.—To the wife of S. Fowler, of
 Beeston, Notts., a daughter—Valerie
 Mary.
 FOYLE.—On February 23rd, to the wife of
 S. Foyle, of Southampton, a son—David
 John.
 SCROGGIE.—On February 8th, to the wife
 of W. Sydney Scroggie, a son—James
 Bewick. (Mrs. Scroggie will be remem-
 bered as Sister Barbara Ingram, at
 Ovingdean).
 SHEEHAN.—On February 24th, to the wife
 of P. Sheehan, of Chislehurst, a son—
 Rodney Patrick.
 SIMPSON.—On March 1st, to the wife of
 A. Simpson, of Belle Vue, Doncaster,
 a son—John Robert.

Marriage

WILLIAMS—HARDS.—On February 27th,
 C. Williams, of Kingston-on-Thames, to
 Miss K. Hards.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the
 following:—

PAULSON.—To A. Paulson, of Higher
 Crumpsall, Manchester, who has recently
 suffered the loss of his mother.
 ROUGHLEY.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. Roughley,
 of Bridlington, whose little grandson has
 died in hospital.

* * *

Those who met him at St. Mark's in the
 old days will hear with regret of the death
 of Mr. F. Read, father-in-law of our St.
 Dunstaner, W. Robinson, of Haringay.
 He was nearly 87. He will be remembered
 by 1914-1918 St. Dunstaners in connection
 with the Smithfield Market outings and
 concerts at St. Mark's College.

Grandfathers

J. Dennick, of Evesham; A. Dean, of
 Hawkhurst, Kent; G. C. Jackson, of
 Ashford, Kent (for the second time).

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. L. Arnold, Wanstead,
 March 25th.

“ In Memory ”

Private William Waite, *North Staffordshire Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of W. Waite, of Didsbury, Manchester.

Although serving from 1917 until 1919 and receiving severe gassing, he did not come to us until 1948. He then trained in industrial work, but had only been in his job a short time when he was taken ill and admitted to hospital. On his discharge he was again taken ill and he died in hospital on January 30th.

A wreath from Sir Ian was among the flowers at the funeral, which was attended by Mrs. Dunphy, Mrs. Lang (of the Liverpool Club), Messrs. A. F. Williamson and McCarthy, and Miss Doel.

Our sympathy is extended to his sons, Alan and Brian, and to Miss Emily Stevenson, whose wedding to our St. Dunstaner was postponed on account of his illness, and who devotedly nursed him.

Private Edwin England Greenwood, *37th Labour Battalion, Royal Fusiliers*

We record with deep regret the death of E. E. Greenwood, of Enfield. He was sixty-nine.

Wounded on the Somme in 1916, he came to us in April, 1917, where he trained in poultry-keeping and mat-making, but in recent weeks he had done little apart from keeping a few chickens. He had been ill with heart trouble for several years, but he bore this most courageously. He died on February 19th.

A poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was among the flowers. Miss Cecil Wood attended the funeral at Mrs. Greenwood's request.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Greenwood and her family.

Gunner Arthur Edward Bosley, *32nd Royal Garrison Artillery*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Arthur Bosley, of Tooting, London, S.W.17. He was seventy-five.

He came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1944, although he had served in the 1914-1918 war until January 1919. His health had been failing for some time and he passed away on February 19th.

At the funeral service at Lambeth Cemetery, the coffin was covered with the Union Jack, and Sir Ian's wreath of poppies was among the numerous wreaths. The service was taken by his youngest son, the Rev. C. F. Bosley, from Tunbridge Wells. Miss Lloyd was among those present.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and grown-up family.

Private John Edgar Elston, *Royal Irish Rifles*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of another soldier of the 1914-1918 war, J. E. Elston, of Bideford, who had only been one of our members for a month.

He was discharged from the Army in September, 1917. For some time past he had been ill, and he passed away on February 8th.

A wreath from the Chairman was among the flowers at the funeral.

He leaves a widow and two children, to whom our very sincere sympathy is extended.

Private James Alfred Russ, *Machine Gun Corps*

We deep regret we have to record the death of J. A. Russ, of Woodborough, Wiltshire, at the age of fifty-two. He passed away on February 14th.

He came to us in December, 1937, when he trained as a shop-keeper, and he kept the Post Office Stores at Woodborough most successfully.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Russ in her loss.

Private Albert Chilton, *10th Yorks and Lancs. Regt.*

We record with deep regret the death of Albert Chilton, of Leighton Buzzard, at the age of fifty-six.

Discharged from the Army in November, 1916, he came to St. Dunstan's in May, 1918, where he trained in poultry, joinery, and later in boot-repairing. He continued the latter until quite recently, when his health broke down and prevented him continuing. He was admitted to hospital on February 28th and died there the following day.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a poppy wreath from Sir Ian.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Chilton and her family.

Driver Finton Dooley, *Royal Field Artillery*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Finton Dooley, of Dublin.

Finton Dooley served as a regular soldier from September, 1902, until April, 1917, but he did not come to us until 1932. He was then a sick man and not able to do a great deal of work. In spite of his poor health and badly damaged hand, he tried a little rug-making, but eventually had to give this up.

He died at his home on February 7th, and was buried in Glasnevin Cemetery. Many friends attended the funeral, at which Father Daly officiated. A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was among the many flowers.

Our very sincere sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

THREE old friends of St. Dunstan's are retiring from our service, Miss Marshall, Mr. White and Mr. Edwards.

Miss Marshall came to St. Dunstan's in 1915, having previously been employed on the *Daily Express*, which was founded by and, until a short time before the Great War, owned by Sir Arthur Pearson. She is thus one of the few surviving members of what might be called the original staff. For many years she was an assistant in our Appeals Department and later became second-in-charge, being responsible mainly for the Carol League, appeals by correspondence and the organisation of lectures; she also acted as secretary of the Appeals Committee. Miss Marshall never missed a day during all these years through illness. I do not think she ever missed a day at all, though I remember during the war when a bomb fell upon her house she was away for a few hours, and I had some difficulty in persuading her to take the necessary time off to look after her private affairs. She has one of the warmest hearts I have known and always spoke up for anyone who was in trouble or seemed to be undefended. It is hard to estimate the value of her services to St. Dunstan's, and her attainment of the age for retirement is a matter of deep regret.

Mr. George White, the head of the Basket Department, and Mr. F. H. Edwards, the Poultry Visitor, both came to us in 1919. They will be remembered by very many early St. Dunstaners as among the first of our After-Care staff who travelled the land visiting homes, workshops and farms, giving technical advice and acting as family friends. The success of our home workers is in very large measure due to the devoted work of After-Care visitors and none has served us better in this capacity than Mr. Edwards, while Mr. White's splendid efforts on behalf of our basket-makers have contributed tremendously to their welfare and success. Both had a particularly strenuous time during the war years when travelling was so difficult and materials were so hard to obtain. Mr. Edwards was one of the best practical poultry-farming experts in the country, and Mr. White was recognised as a leading figure in the world of basket-making and basket-making materials.

To all these three the Council of St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners themselves will say, "Thank you for the services you have rendered to us, for your friendship and help, and the best of good luck in your retirement."

"Lights Out"

The other night I went to a film called "Lights Out." This is a film telling the story of what might be called the American St. Dunstan's, that is to say, the place in which American

blinded ex-Servicemen of the Second World War went for a period of training. Its name is the United States Army Hospital, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, but it is justifiable to describe it as the American St. Dunstan's, because many of the ideas and practical methods came or were adapted from our experience, for those who were at Church Stretton in the early days will remember that when the Americans first entered the European theatre of war, we had the pleasure of the presence in our midst of a number of young American blinded ex-Servicemen, and surgeons and other experts came to see them and to examine and report upon what we were doing. The training given in the American institution is very much briefer than at St. Dunstan's and does not go far beyond our early stages which we call "learning to be blind." This film is not a documentary but a feature film with a variation of the "eternal triangle" to carry the story forward. I thought it was well acted and told a courageous and interesting story without exaggeration and in good taste. I advise St. Dunstaners to go to this film and have learned that it will appear in London districts from April 23rd and in the provinces from May 28th.

I know that many St. Dunstaners go regularly to films and enjoy them. I personally prefer a straight play where there is more talk and less that requires to be seen and I do not think I have been to more than half-a-dozen films in the past thirty years. I am, therefore, not competent to judge whether this film is better than the average or worse, but can only say that I found it interesting and that I recommend it.

In spite of my ignorance, or perhaps because of it, I feel disposed to draw the fire of the fans by making some comments on one aspect of films, though it should be understood that these are not criticisms specially directed against "Lights Out."

It is distracting to me to hear a band playing when the young man and his girl are sitting on the balcony in the moonlight, obviously alone. Not only does the band make it more difficult to hear what they are saying, but it seems unnatural and out-of-place. The motor-cars make too much noise, very much more noise than a modern American motor-car really makes and even more noise than those which we hear in B.B.C. programmes. It gives me the impression that the fellows who are responsible for the noises are like children with toys and they must show them off. When people walk about they sound to me as if they have got clogs on their feet, and almost as if they are walking on the metal deck of a tanker or in a prison or a dungeon. Why is speech and other sounds reproduced on the sound-track so very much worse than radio sound? Another thought struck me, namely, how difficult it is to hear what they say. It is not entirely on account of the American accent but is, I think, due to the inferior speech reproduction by comparison with radio, or to the fact that the recording is done in surroundings which are not treated acoustically with the same care as broadcasting studios. I do not know that this is so but only hazard a guess from what I heard or failed to hear. I am surprised that the audience will tolerate such a high degree of unintelligibility, but it may be that sighted people do a lot of lip-reading in their cinema, or that they know what the characters are going to say by the actions which they see.

I should judge that "Lights Out" will be shown widely in Britain and, no doubt, in the United States, and it seems to me a pity that it was not made here in this country, with St. Dunstan's as the inspiration. This is not for lack of suggestion on our part to various makers of films during the long life of St. Dunstan's, but rather, I suppose, to lack of initiative on the part of directors and studio authorities. Perhaps they thought that the Americans would not go to see a film about British blinded soldiers and that it was not worth making it for home circulation alone.

IAN FRASER.

First Reunions of 1951

On April 4th, the first Reunion of the year took place at the Royal Star Hotel, Maidstone. Lt. Col. C. Gordon Larking, C.B.E., J.P., Mayor of Maidstone, and former National Chairman of the British Legion, was the guest of honour. Nearly fifty St. Dunstaners were present at this enjoyable meeting.

Derby Sweepstake

The closing date of our Derby Sweepstake is **Friday, May 18th**. Application should be made to the Editor, *ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW*, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. Tickets are 2s. 6d. each.

The draw will take place in the Club Room at 191 Marylebone Road, on the evening of Friday, May 25th. All those drawing a horse will be notified.

London Club Notes

At the March meeting of the Central Committee, Mr. Frank A. Rhodes tendered his resignation, as he is leaving London to take up residence at the coast. The committee voted a special vote of thanks to him, not only for the work he has done while chairman of the Indoor Section, but also for the work and support he has given the committee since its inception. All Club members join in wishing him every good fortune and happiness in his retirement.

Mr. C. J. W. Walker was co-opted to the committee, and elected as chairman of the Indoor section, and will continue with the same sub-committee, i.e., Mr. J. Mudge and Mr. C. Brampton, and we have no doubt that this team will carry the club to further successes.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge

In the London Business Houses League, our team came top of our section, losing 1, drawing 1 and winning 6. This entitled us to play in the final with eight other teams. In this event we finished fourth, so while we could have done better, we were not disgraced. Our team throughout was P. Nuyens, H. Gover, R. Coles and F. Winter, and P. Nuyens was captain.

On March 3rd, eight St. Dunstaners North of the Thames played eight members South of the River, and the South won by 1,080. There is now a cup for this event, but the teams have to meet twice, so we must wait until September when South starts with a lead of 1,080.

March 10th, and our old friend, Jack Callow, with us and his team of eight. This was a loss by 880.

On March 17th eight of our members visited Messrs. Lyons and Cadby Hall. This we won by the narrow margin of 230 mainly because of a wonderful 4 Spades by F. King and Van. Congratulations.

H. GOVER.

Outdoor Section

"The sun shines on the righteous," but not on March 31st for the 10 miles handicap walk; ten stalwarts faced Mr. W. G. Askew, the starter, but the elements failed to damp their ardour. The start was fast and furious. Tommy Gaygan established a lead of 100 yards in the first mile; the most interesting development was between the second to fourth places, great judgment

being shown in a steady pace development up to about four miles, when Archie, closely followed by Dusty Miller, passed C. Williamson, the latter passing Dusty after a further quarter of a mile. Tommy Denmead, who has improved greatly, passed Dusty at about seven miles, and in this order they finished. A remarkable feature of the handicap was that the five faster men took the four handicap prizes and the fastest loser prize, the handicapper's dream of perfection. Mr. Askew followed the race throughout and returned to Headquarters with us to present the prizes.

	<i>Actual Time</i>		<i>H'cap Time</i>	<i>H'cp Pos.</i>
T. Gaygan ...	89.20		89.20	1
A. Brown ...	94.48	4.30	90.18	2
C. Williamson	96.13	4.20	91.53	4
T. Denmead...	96.53	6.10	90.43	3
W. Miller ...	98.56	6.30	92.26	5
P. Cryan ...	104.24	6.20	98.04	8
C. Stafford ...	106.07	13.00	93.07	6
A. Bradley ...	109.37	9.30	100.07	10
W. Scott ...	113.42	17.00	96.42	7
S. Tutton ...	115.18	17.00	98.18	9

Prizewinners: 1st Handicap, T. Gaygan; 2nd Handicap, A. Brown; 3rd Handicap, T. Denmead; 4th Handicap, C. Williamson; Fastest Loser, W. Miller.

Future Walks: 7-mile, 21st April, Regent's Park—All England Championship.

7-mile, May 19th, Brighton.

Please send entries as soon as possible.

T. GAYGAN.

Points Awarded to London Walkers to Date

<i>S.S. Section</i>	<i>Pts.</i>	<i>T.B. Section</i>	<i>Pts.</i>
A. Brown ...	84	S. Tutton ...	82
W. Miller ...	78	T. Gaygan ...	79
A. G. Bradley ...	64	C. Stafford ...	77
P. J. Cryan ...	51	J. Fairgrieve ...	70
W. T. Scott ...	14	C. Williamson ...	51

Placements

T. H. Moorley as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. Rowditch Engineering Co., Ltd., Derby; E. Barber, York, with Messrs. Rowntree and Co., Ltd., operating a bean coding machine; H. R. Biggs as a tobacco-nist and confectioner at Manor Lane, Lee; G. McKay, of Manor Park, as a telephone operator with Messrs. G. E. Gray, Ltd., Ilford.

War Pensions Concessions

Following the announcement in the House of Commons on Tuesday, April 17th, of certain pensions improvements, the Chairman visited Brighton on Wednesday, April 18th, and attended the Reading Reunion on Friday, the 20th, to explain the proposals.

In the big lounge at Ovingdean were gathered trainees, a contingent from West House, a number who live in Brighton, and men on holiday from all over the country.

Sir Ian Fraser said: The improvements which have been announced will not affect the basic rate of pension, but the supplementary allowances payable to men who only undertake hobby work are to be improved. The Unemployability Allowance will be increased from 30s. per week to 35s. per week, and if a St. Dunstaner entitled to this Unemployability Supplement has a pensioned child or children, then there will be an addition of 2s. 6d. per week for the first or only child. There will be no addition for other children. The Attendance Allowance will remain unaltered, but if a St. Dunstaner is receiving both the Attendance Allowance and the Unemployability Allowance, then he will be entitled to a new allowance in addition, which is called the "Comforts Allowance," of 10s. per week. This Comforts Allowance of 10s. per week is also payable to St. Dunstaners with multiple wounds, even though they are not drawing the Unemployability Allowance.

Sir Ian said that a precise definition had not yet been given of what constituted multiple wounds, although obviously the totally blinded St. Dunstaner who had lost both hands will be eligible. It might be that a totally blinded man who had lost one hand will also be eligible, but the position would be clarified at an early date and Headquarters will advise all men who will be eligible for this allowance.

The following table shows the old and the new rate in a typical case:—

		Present Rates	New Rates
		s. d.	s. d.
Basic Pension	...	45 0	45 0
Unemployability Supplement	...	30 0	35 0
Wife's Allowance	...	16 0	16 0
Attendance Allowance	...	20 0	20 0
Comforts Allowance	...	—	10 0
Total	....	£5 11	£6 6

Where there is a child or children, there will be a further increase of 2s. 6d. If Attendance Allowance of 10s. is at present in payment, this will continue and there will, of course, be a corresponding reduction in the Table shown above.

Sir Ian pointed out that persons entitled to the Unemployability Supplement would still be permitted to earn no more than £1 per week. The amount of £2 per week which persons in receipt of Retirement Pensions can now earn will not apply to disabled Service men in receipt of the Unemployability Supplement. The new rates would come into operation with effect from the first pay day in June.

Sir Ian also pointed out that the small number of St. Dunstan's men of the First World War who receive the special pension called the "Alternative Pension" can change this Alternative Pension to the pension detailed above if they are unemployable and it is more advantageous for them to do so.

Concluding, Sir Ian Fraser said: These improvements are the result of a review of war pensions made by the Minister of Pensions, Mr. Isaacs, after prolonged representations and discussion with the British Legion and other ex-Servicemen's organisations, of which St. Dunstan's is one. I have thanked the Minister on your behalf for proposals which benefit a great many St. Dunstaners, but have pointed out that all ex-Servicemen, including the majority of St. Dunstaners who are employed, much regret that he was unable to get a larger sum of money from the Chancellor of the Exchequer which would have enabled him to raise the basic rate. A rise in the basic rate remains the policy of the British Legion and I have no doubt it will be vigorously pursued, said Sir Ian.

The Chairman answered a number of questions, and Mr. Askew, who visited Brighton with him, said that it would not be necessary for any St. Dunstaner to make application for the increased rates. The Ministry of Pensions had all the necessary information in their possession which would enable them to make the appropriate adjustments. Much work would, of course, be involved, but he felt sure that the majority of the men would receive the increased pensions early in June, but if any St. Dunstaner had not received the increased rates by July 1st, he should write to Mr. Banks, at Ovingdean, or Mr. Rice, at 1 South Audley Street.

Calling All Sportsmen

Elsewhere in this edition you can see some of the results of walking races. As these words are written, one knows not who will show as prize-winners in the teams representing the London and provincial clubs, but the names will not be unusual or strange to the columns of the REVIEW.

These short paragraphs are really an invitation to other St. Dunstaners to take an active part in different events which take place from time to time in walking, swimming, rowing and general sports.

You who read these lines—you are personally asked to take some part. You too can walk, run, put a weight, or jump. Remember, the men of 1914 did it, and did it well. Let them see that we of 1939 can also do the same things, even do them better, whether we took an active part in sport pre-war or not.

Would you like to be able to say, "I won that set of carvers," or "That little shield shows I helped to win the 'Sir Arthur Pearson' cup for the club"?

It is not necessary to be good at the start; practice will make perfect, and as you become more enthusiastic so will you too put more enthusiasm into others, and develop once again that spirit of competition so well shown in the first-war men. Just to get the feeling, why not come along one day to a walking race and shout the winners in? It will give you the feeling already there of good-companionship, and of friends all ready and waiting to help and compete with you.

Do it now, make the initial effort; the first time will not be the last, as immediately you meet the others you will find the blood-warming and the longing created to be one of the Sporting Boys.

Are you satisfied to let the other fellows win when you could do better, are you content to sit around and let the only sport you take part in be the Saturday afternoon broadcast from some professional stadium? Remember, the finest sportsmen are the amateurs from whom the professionals come. Remember, we at the clubs are there waiting for you to roll up, and please have a go.

JOHN MUDGE and TOMMY GAYGAN.

From the Chairman's Post-bag

"Many St. Dunstaners, as well as the civilian blind, will be visiting the Festival of Britain.

"This has caused me to wonder whether anything is being done to help us to get the maximum amount of pleasure and interest from such visits. I suggest that the authorities might be approached officially to see if any arrangements might be made to help us."

H. V. KERR.

Saltdean, Brighton.

Sir Ian writes:—

"Thank you for your letter in which you ask me if the authorities at the Festival of Britain should be invited to make special arrangements to enable blind people to enjoy a visit to the Festival. A variation of this request might be as to whether St. Dunstan's might be able to make special arrangements for St. Dunstaners.

"Both of these are attractive suggestions and I should much like to be able to say that I think something useful could be done; after a good deal of thought, however, I have come to the conclusion that there is really nothing practicable that the Festival authorities could be asked to do, or that St. Dunstan's could do.

"There will be an enormous staff at the Festival, and a great number of different things to see and learn about, varying from Halls of Science and Engineering to swings and roundabouts. It would not, I think, be reasonable to ask the authorities to provide special guides, and anything in the way of a braille programme would be clumsy and difficult to read.

"When a blind man goes to an exhibition, what he needs essentially is to go with someone who is in sympathy with him and can see for him what will interest him, and then explain it. St. Dunstan's could not arrange for members of the staff to do this, and I think it must be a case where each man makes his own arrangements with a member of his family or a friend.

"I will, however, see that an intelligent member of the staff who has some idea of what things St. Dunstaners might be interested in, goes round the Exhibition and writes a brief note for the REVIEW on things to look out for, as this may be some help to those who decide to go."

From All Quarters

Ted Miller was presented to the King and Queen when Their Majesties recently visited Warwick Castle. Ted, who is handless, is a guide at the Castle.

★ ★ ★

When H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent visited the factory of Parker-Knoll, Limited, furniture manufacturers, she was particularly interested in the upholstery department where she was introduced to St. Dunstaners William Carr and William Crabbe, and complimented them upon their skill.

★ ★ ★

E. Williams, of Shipley, has been awarded the Bronze Badge for blood transfusion services.

★ ★ ★

Mentioned in the Press—Legionnaire Ernest Russell, for an excellent talk on St. Dunstan's to the York Road, Leeds, branch of the British Legion, and a three-column article, with photograph, about James Blakeley, of Farnworth, and his guide-dog, Rebecca.

★ ★ ★

Robert Lloyd, of Bournemouth, has recently been elected to the Chair of the Westbourne Young Conservatives' Association.

★ ★ ★

J. T. Daborn, who has been a member of Bexley Heath and District Angling Society for a year now, has been voted a member of the committee for the coming year. At the annual dinner of the society he received a tremendous reception when he went forward to receive the Coronation cup for the heaviest dogfish landed, and the Novices' cup for the heaviest catch for a beginner.

★ ★ ★

George Reed, of Weybridge, is a skilful ventriloquist, and on March 14th he attended the N.U.R.T. dinner, and later gave a show with Percy, his "doll." Later he was M.C. at a party for old folks given by Toc H, and again he and Percy did their act.

★ ★ ★

Ted Barton, who is employed as a research engineer with I.C.I., writes: "Work is going reasonably well for me. I spend half my time these days finding ways of

economising in fuel on the works. Soon I should have a patent to my name for a plant design; it should save us money and we will probably earn royalties from other countries. Last November I presented a paper to the Northern Branch of the Institute of Chemical Engineers at Manchester on some work we have been doing on heat transfer fluids. I spoke non-stop for about forty minutes and enjoyed myself thoroughly."

★ ★ ★

George Merriman, who last year went to New Zealand with his wife and son (they have since had another boy), is now happily settled in New Plymouth, where he has a post as Telephone Repair Engineer with the New Zealand Post Office Department. He is an expert and most successful amateur radio transmitter, and keeps constant conversation contact with amateurs in Great Britain.

Anniversary Year

Captain William Appleby, O.B.E., member of St. Dunstan's Executive Council, this year celebrates his 30th year on the British Legion National Executive Council, his golden wedding anniversary, his daughter's silver wedding, and his grandson's 21st year. Captain Appleby is also the "father" of the N.E.C. of the British Legion, for he is the only man who has been elected a member of it since its foundation.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," April, 1921.

"On the evening of the 22nd March a meeting was held at St. Dunstan's at which was discussed the advisability of forming a committee to look after the affairs of men who had left. Mr. Harrison and Sir Arthur Pearson were the principal speakers, and when a vote was taken the figures were:

For the formation of such a body as had been suggested	...	...	43
Against the formation of such a body	...	...	68

The matter is obviously one which does not nearly so much concern the men at present at St. Dunstan's as it concerns the men who have left, and who throughout the country are working with the assistance of the present After-Care arrangements. If, therefore, the matter is carried further, the opinions of the men who have left St. Dunstan's will be taken with regard to it."

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Referring to the Chairman's Notes *re* artificial aids, one can only endorse his remarks that getting about alone requires skill and courage. We men in the country are, I think, luckier than the city men, for with that skill and courage we can travel fairly normally many miles at fairly normal speed. One has got to rely on one's own ability to adapt oneself.

I think that the period in training should be largely devoted to instructing men to take walks alone, but followed by an orderly or escort. Not merely along a straight wall without obstructions, but along unfamiliar country roads, learning to find obstacles by sound and the skilful use of the stick. Hoping for artificial Radar aids to locomotion and sound reflexes is, to my mind, mere wishful thinking. We do not want confusing; we require confidence, and that can only be gained by long periods of actual independence of action. I feel as safe when walking along with my dog as if I was on a horse's back, but absolutely alone my mobility is reduced to no miles per hour, and a nerve-racking listening for approaching footsteps and the dodging of steps, garbage cans, etc.

Castle Cary.

A. J. RADFORD.

DEAR EDITOR,

I always read the Braille REVIEW with interest, and have often been tempted to make comments through this column—now I am giving in to the temptation by "writing" what I feel with regard to penmanship for the blinded.

In the Braille room in 1920, I remember the teacher at the next table spoke to my teacher and the two pupils about a frame that had been brought to her notice which had rubber bands so that blind people could "write" between these bands, thus keeping the written lines in order. I had had a fair experience in writing before being blind, and naturally felt that rubber bands would be an encumbrance rather than a help to me: I stated this and added that, if the need arose, I believed I could write a letter without such help.

My first attempt at "writing" was three to four years later when on holiday at what is now known as West House—what I "wrote" there was quite legible to the recipient.

Later on, when I was placed in a job in East London, a very old friend gave me a writing frame which was much more to my liking, and I occasionally used it to write home (being in digs) by way of a change from typewriting—I think my mother appreciated the effort. Then, when London was bombed during the last war, I knew it comforted my mother, so I "wrote" her a weekly letter so long as she lived.

I know my penmanship is not anywhere so clean or clear as it was before my blindness, and I don't think blind people should think of "writing" all their communications. On the other hand, if a blind person is interested, I think his family, or a close friend, would certainly be made happy with an occasional effort from him.

With regard to the headache referred to by my friend George—well, some fully-sighted people's handwriting is impossible to fully decipher.

Lancing.

REES WARREN.

DEAR SIR,

I wonder how many of your readers find the same difficulty in the Braille *Radio Times* as I do. I use the *Radio Times* as a guide, to indicate what is on at any particular moment when I find I have the time to sit and listen. Set out as it is, this often involves a longer time spent in reading than I have to spare for the listening.

I would suggest that if the paper were paragraphed, say, every two hours, it would be a great help, but I am sure that the Editor would say that it would involve too great a loss of space. I am so certain that it would be of such value to all but the most expert readers that I venture to ask whether there are not many like me who would rather have less information more easily available, than the present arrangement which to most of us destroys to a large extent the value of the whole publication.

I hesitate to give examples, but I think there are far too many sub-titles: thus, in an item called "Saving and Spending," wisecracks may be fine in the printed version, but I, personally, could do without the sub-title, "Keep something for the road back." I could go on quoting these sub-titles, but I think I have said enough to show what I mean. In any case, all these sub-titles are given at the commencement of the actual broadcast.

Again, do we need all the names that are given? In certain cases they are essential to deciding whether to listen or not. Although I listen to "The Critics" regularly, I do not need to know their names beforehand. Even in community singing, I doubt whether one needs to know the names of the organist and introducer in order to decide whether to listen or not.

A great deal of space, too, is taken up by such phrases as "adapted for broadcasting by . . ." and "followed by an interval of . . ."

Are there others who feel as I do about it, and have they better suggestions to offer for its improvement?

Temple Guiting.

J. A. ORIEL.

DEAR EDITOR,

There are very many good sportsmen among our lads and even those who do not bother with the gee-gee must at some time or other have listened to a commentary by Raymond Glendenning on racing, football, etc., and derived great pleasure from his voice through the loudspeaker.

I want to suggest to the boys that we have a small fund to make a presentation to the person in question to show our appreciation as a body of St. Dunstaners.

Manchester.

BERT GAFFNEY.

(The Editor asked Sir Ian if he had any comment to make on this letter and he said, "I am very pleased to read this tribute, which, I am sure, will be echoed by many. I do not think, however, that Mr. Glendenning would wish a presentation to be made to him, but I will send him a copy of the REVIEW with our best thanks.")

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages

Yvonne Coulson, to Mr. Denis Wright, on March 24th.

William Irvine (Glasgow), on March 30th, to Miss Eddamson.

Hugh Printie (Edinburgh), on March 31st.

Edward Holland (Heswall), on March 3rd, to Miss Isabella McLeod.

Mavis Randall (Hove), on March 31st.

Talking Book Library

March's Mite

Two rather gloomy books are all that there is to offer to assuage the appetite of enthusiastic readers this month. "The American" and the classic "Jane Eyre" are the two, and they seem to get on well with the month's weather.

"The American," by Henry James, reader Alvar Lidell, is the yarn of a successful bachelor of commerce who runs up against a wall of exaggerated etiquette when he tries to woo the daughter of a noble French family. He is depicted as far too ingenuous to have been a successful business man and, as usual, "faint heart ne'er won fair lady." In my opinion the story has no guts, but is reasonably readable.

"Jane Eyre," by Charlotte Brontë, reader Jean Metcalfe, is a literary classic calculated to extract tears from its readers. The plot is good, the story interesting. The writer always strikes me more as a poet than a novelist, but I presume the nineteenth century style tends to help that impression. We must be careful to appreciate the tragedy of Mr. Rochester's blindness, but I fear that had he been one of ourselves he would have thrown poor Jane into a pond on one of their descriptive walks together. It is a book one should read, but do not depress yourself further if you have heard about it!

Depression moving rapidly East!

NELSON.

For James Bewick*

Let not to-morrow's manhood disendow

*Of love this evening's child. Those native parts
Of temper, mind and form are perfect now*

*And must be when his time of testing starts,
The infant man in Paradise again.*

*For life is love in action: it is more
Than just the sum of living's joy and pain,*

*The mighty voice of Bach's angelic score,
And awful vision of a Florentine*

*Brooding in Tuscan shade. True life outstrips
Almost the zest of mountain discipline,*

*The cracking sinews and the comradeships,
And self-fulfilment presupposes this,*

That love shall balance all the faculties.

W. SYDNEY SCROGGIE.

*(A son—James Bewick—was born on February 8th to Mr. and Mrs. Scroggie).

"Or Any Police Station"

Entering a doorway in close proximity of Cannon Row, I produced my letter of introduction. I was escorted into a small warm, cosy office, asked to take a seat, and after a short conversation by the officer in charge I was taken down a spiral staircase, along a sub-basement corridor, through a door, and as a gentle bubbling of soft voices came to my ears, realised I had entered the room which deals with that mystery telephone number, 999, with its more normal brother, Whitehall 1212.

Inspector Law, officer on duty, at once took me under his care and thus I am able to tell you what I heard and learned of "Information Room, Scotland Yard."

Three rooms make up this nerve centre of the most efficient police force in the world—the large central room where all the voices are humming, and a smaller room at each end, one containing clacking teleprinters, the other just a softly-burring morse key and a tapping typewriter.

The central room is flanked on one side by a long switchboard. Here sit six to ten police officers, according to time of day. Facing them on the wall is a light panel, with flashing lights, the first ten of which are the same as the top line in Braille, A to J, the remainder just numerals. A to J deal exclusively with calls via the 999 Emergency service, and as a letter lights up an officer plugs in, and he writes the message down upon a pad, with carbon copies. He writes fully the name and address of caller, but the information is put down in a code, this saving seconds which may be vital in dealing with the message. The original message is handed to the radio operator the opposite side of the room, the copies going to files and to the officer in charge. In the centre of the room on a large table is a large map showing the 740 square miles of the Metropolitan Police area. Upon this map stand little groups of tallies, some yellow, some red. These denote radio cars and the area in which they are serving. Each tally is numbered both sides, and upon one side is a black line, showing this car is not working or is temporarily not available.

The radio operator takes his message, and at once, if necessary, gets in touch with a car by code number, "DMO to 5Y, DMO to 5Y, over." Back comes the

answer, "5Y to DMO, over." "DMO to 5Y, message 18.51. Strange noise in flats 193 Mosterly Court, W.C.1, suspect believed to be still on premises. Over." "5Y to DMO, message understood. Over." The operator notes on message, "5Y instructed, advise L.S." The messenger takes this to the teleprinter room and at once the clacking starts, and within seconds the tape is running into the local station. The local station can thus send its own car to assist or by means of the police street boxes notify the beat or patrol foot policeman in the vicinity.

Should the need arise, a car can be sent from one area to another.

Every hour an All Stations goes out. This is a long teleprinter message giving details of cars stolen and still not located, cases of calls previously made and since the last A.S. cleared up.

I stood in the Information Room for some time, and during that time all kinds of calls came in. "Strange noises and breaking glass in bank premises heard by next-door occupiers." "Street fight, Harrow Road area." "Invalid chair broken down Oxford Street, passenger unable to walk, lives in Poplar." "Shadows seen on window covering of known to be unoccupied flat." "Street accidents, two."

So it goes on. As one job finishes, another begins. They never know when it will be rush hour: they are always ready for it. They only know that it is quieter between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. than any other part of the day.

The third room is the quiet one with the buzzer, the International Room, where news is taken and given of little things which may mean much. Maybe a known man is on his way to our shores by air, he can be welcomed. Maybe one is leaving us for a Continental change. He must be kept under observation. Maybe a person is on a motor tour on the Continent, and a near relation is very ill. A few minutes is all that is necessary to contact the person needed.

It seems a long cry from the large, bearded "Bobby" of my youth to these alert men who, in a few minutes, can hear of a "job" in Notting Hill and the "boys" being "knocked off" at Tottenham Court Road. Yes, I shall thrill a little in future when I hear those words, "Whitehall 1212, or any police station."

JOHN A. MUDGE.

Blackpool News

From the *Lancashire Evening Post*, April 2nd:—

"One often hears grumbles about British Railways. People think that trains are either too late, or too packed, or that the staff is insufficient and the catering bad.

"Now it gives me pleasure to record words of appreciation which arrived at Blackpool South station from St. Dunstan's. Blind men and women have to travel, and they often do so by train. They, too, enjoy a holiday at the seaside—but what chance would they have on a crowded platform, among bustling holidaymakers, if it were not for the railway staff?

"Sir Ian Fraser has sent this message to Stationmaster E. Harris: 'You and your staff have been extremely kind in taking a special interest in the journeys and lives of St. Dunstaners who come through the station. This makes a great deal of difference to the happiness of blinded men when travelling alone.'"

From the *West Lancashire Evening Gazette*, April 5th:—

"Thought for to-day comes from South Promenade private hotel chef, Mr. Don Leo.

"Travelling by tram on his way to work at half past seven, Mr. Leo has found comfort and consolation the last few mornings in the example set by three men walking arm-in-arm along the sea-front.

"The men, says Mr. Leo, are blind.

"They walk with heads held high and a smile of contentment brightening their serene faces—an example of real comradeship and brotherly understanding."

"What made Mr. Leo observe them so closely was that he was on a tramcar 'filled,' he told me, 'with so many solemn faces. So solemn that they might have been on their way to the scaffold.'

"Instead of worrying ourselves to death—and showing it—what a glorious thing it would be if more people would emulate the three blind men."

(Comment by Messrs. A. Pimm, C. Williams and A. Rees, the Three Musketeers concerned: "Ah well, they were going to work; we were not!")

Test Results

Advanced and Senior Braille-Reading Tests:
R. Pringle.

Senior Braille-Reading Test: A. Pointon.

"Blinded, but Unbeaten"

Captain Gilbert Nobbs was blinded in the war of 1914-1918 and came to St. Dunstan's. He was a business man and he built his firm (Holbrook's) into one of the most important companies in Australia. Captain Nobbs is, therefore, a successful St. Dunstaner himself. He became Chairman of the Repatriation Committee and was given the task of organising and caring for the war-blinded Australians of the second war in 1939. Now he has written a book, "Blinded, but Unbeaten," which tells the story of the training and placement of blinded Servicemen in New South Wales. His book covers familiar ground. With the conquest of blindness as its theme, it recalls much of the spirit of St. Dunstan's, for he tells it from his own experience of St. Dunstan's in the early days, and he has communicated it to these young Australians.

In 1914-1918 it was natural for an Australian blinded in France to come to St. Dunstan's in England, but in the second war the casualties were mainly in the Middle and Far East and it would have meant sending them halfway round the world. The Australian Government and people, however, greatly appreciated Sir Ian Fraser's offer to welcome them here if they so desired.

One point is of special interest. As in the Old Country they enjoy most sports; in Australia cricket and bowls are particularly popular. Cricket is played in season, but bowls all the year round. Even a handless Australian blinded Serviceman takes his turn at the nets, and is pictured in Capt. Nobbs' book batting by means of special adjustments to his metal arms.

Camps

Lee-on-Solent: Friday, August 10th to Saturday, August 18th.

Shawbury: Saturday, July 7th to July 14th.
Camp fee, 30s. Fares over £1 refunded.
Last date for entries, May 4th.

AVIS SPURWAY.

The Vicarage,
Holmwood, Nr. Dorking.

Marriage

BRIDGES—MACKENZIE.—On April 7th, Major Ronald Bridges, to Miss Helen Elizabeth Mackenzie, daughter of Sir Clutha and Lady Mackenzie.

Ovingdean Notes

Amongst our visitors to the Training Centre before the end of the spring term, we were pleased to welcome Miss Koula Kanelli, who has been awarded a United Nations Social Welfare Fellowship, and is visiting Great Britain for the purpose of studying methods of teaching blind persons. She is herself blind, and upon her return to her own country she will become a teacher at the School for the Blind, at Salonika. On her return to Greece she intends to visit Major Alexopoulos—some of our ex-trainees will remember this blinded Greek soldier who came to Ovingdean a short time ago and who is now in charge of a Blind School at Athens. Miss Kanelli carries our good wishes to Major Alexopoulos.

Term ended during mid-March and a delightful end-of-term concert was organised by a group of Staff and trainees. The concert took place on March 12th, and we were very glad indeed that Sir Ian and Lady Fraser found it possible to spare the time to come down to Ovingdean for the performance. Our compère was Tommy Rogers, and new talent included Johnny Cowan, Jim Fraser, George McKay, Fred Lipscombe and Charlie Phillips. They were aided and abetted by George Killingbeck, Les White, Bob Osborne and staff representatives George Short (House Steward), Orderly L. Mason, Miss Carlton and Miss Smith (V.A.D. staff). Combined together they offered us a most entertaining evening. To Mr. Redmond and the band and to all those who took part we expressed our pleasure.

On March 20th the trainees set off for an Easter holiday at home and Ovingdean began to receive a large number of holiday-makers from north, south, east and west, so that by Good Friday the house was almost full.

In writing Ovingdean Notes this month we must not forget to add how pleased we have been to have had such a good representation from the Girls' Home at Port Hall, Ovingdean, present at most of the entertainments arranged. Port Hall has been full during the Easter holiday—and it has been really nice having the girls with us—ask the boys! We hope they enjoyed their holiday in every way.

Feeling Tired?

Cortez and his tough He-men awoke the old world when they saw the vast Pacific from that peak in Darien. The restless urge which those men had yet shakes the peaceful scene. My heart bleeds for those smitten ones on a peak in Ovingdean. There's lots of folks rise with the lark, millions never do, those who smile on the alb of day I greet with a hearty—Phoo! Are cold baths sweet, with early jerks, and a whistle on winding-up? Sweeter's the thing I'd love to do when He-men yell—“Get up!”

I like to walk abroad, of course, when the world has had some warming; for all I care it can freeze alone on a cold and frosty morning. My horse was winning—a hundred to one; it streaked like a frightened pup, then came that ice-cold He-man, yelling: “Come on—you get up!” Why walk in tangled woodland ways, when sunny days have fled; 'neath dripping fingers of the trees on which green life lies dead? We won the final, and the King was handing me the cup; again that mud-stained He-man bellowed: “Come on—you get up!”

Maybe there'll come a time when I shall think up something great, to stop these He-men coaxing me to do things which I hate. Why don't they let us sleep and dream? I'll have it well worked up, and grin if all at Ovingdean yell, “COME ON—YOU GET UP!”

W. E. BROOKES.

Births

BAGWELL.—On February 24th, to the wife of P. Bagwell, of Somerton, a daughter—Sylvia Joy.

FREER.—On October 17th, to the wife of R.A.F. Freer, of Ilfracombe, a daughter—Patricia Mary.

MILLER.—On April 5th, to the wife of W. Miller, of Perivale (until recently telephonist at 1 South Audley Street), twin daughters—Angela Christine and Valerie Denise.

PERFECT.—On April 1st, to the wife of J. W. Perfect, of Grindon, Sunderland, a son—Stephen Jeremy.

QUINN.—On March 22nd, to the wife of E. Quinn, of Offaly, Eire, a daughter—Rosaleen.

SIMMONS.—On March 14th, to the wife of T. J. Simmons, of Northwood, Ramsgate, a son—Robert Christie.

“In Memory”

Private David Fenton, 16th South Lancs. Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of David Fenton, of Bridgend, Glamorgan.

David came to St. Dunstan's in 1919. He was trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker and carried on with mats for a long time, but for a number of years he had been living a quiet life. His death was unexpected—all arrangements had been made for him to come to Ovingdean for a long holiday.

At the funeral the coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and a poppy wreath from Sir Ian was among the flowers. Representatives of the British Legion were among those present.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his family and particularly to Mrs. Burnard, his niece, who has cared for him for many years.

Corporal Arthur Brown, 1st Gloucestershire Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of Arthur Brown, of Pennsylvania, Exeter. He was eighty-one.

Wounded in France in September, 1916, he was admitted to St. Dunstan's that year and trained in basket-making, which he carried on for many years. He did, however, give this up four years ago.

He had been ill for a long time and was admitted to hospital on February 13th, where he died on March 29th.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Brown and her daughter.

Private William John Galloway, 5th Oxford and Bucks Regiment

We record with deep regret the death of W. J. Galloway, of Oxford, at the age of sixty-eight.

He came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1918—he had been wounded the previous October—and he trained with us in baskets, netting and wool rugs. He had, however, been ill for a long time and he died on March 25th.

Sir Ian's wreath of poppies was among the flowers at the funeral.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:

DOUGLASS.—To J. L. Douglass, of Barking, whose mother's death has followed shortly upon the death of his father.

HALLIDAY.—To L. Halliday, of Saltdean, whose father has recently died.

HENDERSON.—To Brenda Henderson, of Enfield, in the loss of her mother on February 26th.

HENRY.—To W. Henry, of Putney, whose father died on January 16th.

NOBLE.—To R. Noble, of Middlesbrough, whose wife died on April 4th, after many years of suffering.

SIMPSON.—To J. W. Simpson, of Osmondthorpe, and Mrs. Simpson, whose little granddaughter, aged three, was drowned whilst playing with her four-year-old sister.

WILLIAMS.—To E. Williams, of Shipley, and Mrs. Williams, in the loss of their little granddaughter.

WILLIAMSON.—To C. Williamson, of Tulse Hill, who has recently lost his father.

WHITE.—To R. White, of Wembley, whose mother died on March 8th.

* * *

We have heard with regret of the death of Mrs. Horgan, of Cork, widow of our late St. Dunstan, D. Horgan. She leaves several young children.

Golden Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. G. Tibbs, Holloway, were married fifty years on March 30th. Congratulations!

Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. E. Arnold, Wanstead, March 25th; Mr. and Mrs. E. Astbury, Saltdean, April 3rd; Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Pearce, Hendon, April 3rd.

Grandfathers

J. Boyd, Brighton (Derek's wife has had a daughter); J. C. Brown, Wellington, Salop (a daughter for his son, Harry); S. Worlidge, London, W.2.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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WAR PENSIONS CAMPAIGN MUST GO ON

President's Call at the British Legion Conference

IN his presidential address at the opening of the British Legion Conference at the Albert Hall on Whit Sunday, Sir Ian Fraser's main theme was the part the Legion should play in the preservation of peace and its campaign to protect war pensions from bearing an undue burden in the economic consequences of re-armament.

"It may be," Sir Ian went on, "that talks on the highest level or indeed at any level, such as that of ex-Service organisations or trade unions, may help the cause of peace. I would be willing to meet the Russian Legion in Russia or Britain, for all talking at all levels is better than fighting."

Peace is best ensured, said Sir Ian, by the strength of our own right arm and that of our allies. The true peace organisation is the United Nations, and not the movements who have prostituted the word "peace" to their disarming propaganda which, if successful, would only help the powers behind the Iron Curtain to rob us of our freedom.

Sir Ian appealed for recruits for Civil Defence, which is gravely undermanned, and criticised the Government's delay in organising a Home Guard. Certainly the Minister of Defence's promise that Civil Defence volunteers may join the Home Guard on mobilisation is not practical—it would decimate Civil Defence at its moment of greatest need. The War Office should forthwith draw up a list of those whose best service could be in the Home Guard. "There should also be a general register of all of military age. You cannot call up everybody to fight, but it would be wrong to overlook anybody not in an essential job."

Pensions

Calling for a nation-wide pensions campaign, Sir Ian asserted that, compared with the cost of living, the basic rate for war pensions was better between the two wars than it is now, because the cost of living dropped after 1919, when the rate was fixed. Adjustments and special allowances have benefited a minority of badly disabled, but it is grievously disappointing that the recently announced improvements in allowances should only have helped about 25,000 out of 720,000 war pensioners, 300,000 of whom are first war men, averaging over 60 years of age. "It is unthinkable that the men and women disabled in the two wars should be the ones upon whom the burden falls in an undue proportion of paying for re-armament against a third world war. Improvements since 1943 in pensions and special allowances only amount to about £11m. a year, and of these, children's allowances are no good to us who are now grandfathers." (Laughter.)

"The nation can raise wages every week for some group in the community, and can find money for 101 new purposes, but cannot find the money for the war disabled. This state of affairs is hardly encouraging to the men fighting in Asia." (Here, here).

The Cry of "Party Politics"

Sir Ian called for full support in bringing to public notice the claim for further necessary adjustments in supplementary allowances, and the doubling of the basic rate for the other pensioners. He warned the conference that any organisation bringing pressure to bear on any Government of any party always gets more support from the Opposition than from Government supporters. In resisting these claims, Government supporters might allege that party politics inspire the campaign. "But the Legion is not interested in party politics or playing a party game. It hopes to make friends in all parties." (Hear, hear.)

Among the resolutions passed at the Conference was one urging the Government to review the present employment of fit men who were in reserved occupations subsequent to 1945, but were not now in the same employment, and not merely to restrict the review to Class Z reservists.

Compensation to former prisoners of war in Japanese hands was discussed. A resolution was passed urging that payments made to British forces were comparable to those made to the United States forces.

From All Quarters

Margaret Stanway, who is an accordionist, recently made her first public appearance at a concert in Morecambe. The *Morecambe and Heysham Borough Advertiser* wrote: "Miss Margaret Stanway proved herself to be a fine instrumentalist in her particular line."

★ ★ ★

Charles Durkin is very busy taking part in the local celebrations of the Festival of Britain. As a member of the Orpington and District Blind Club, he takes an active part in their Kitchen Orchestra (all the instruments are articles used in the kitchen). Their first public engagement was on May 18th.

★ ★ ★

J. G. Howes is a keen member of the Stockton-Thornaby Domino Team, and last year won the Individual Domino Championship. This year the team is competing for the Lomer Cup.

★ ★ ★

H White, of Stalybridge, has been elected Vice-President of the Ridge Hill Working Men's Club, and in this capacity he was chairman at a recent concert in aid of St. Dunstan's, which raised £20 for us. He tells us that at this concert also were St. Dunstaners Gerry Brereton, of B.B.C. "Clubnight" fame, and J. Worthing, of Stockport.

Harry adds: "On May 10th I made another attempt for municipal honours but was again unlucky. Disappointed, of course, but never downhearted."

S. Jennings, of Bradford, with the assistance of his wife and son, has produced a magnificent rug to commemorate the Festival of Britain. It is 6ft. by 3ft. The background is of fawn and in the centre is St. Dunstan's badge. On either side of the badge are gently waving flags—the Union Jack and the flags of St. George, St. Andrew and St. David. Below are the words "Festival of Britain, 1901—1951." Mr. and Mrs. Jennings and their son are to be congratulated upon a really fine job.

★ ★ ★

Air Commodore G. Bentley Dacre, C.B.E., D.S.O., for five years Commandant at Church Stretton and Ovingdean, has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Sussex.

★ ★ ★

Randall ("Jimmy" Shepherd), of Aldford, gave the B.B.C. some ideas for their broadcast, "Concerning the English" on St. George's Day. It concerned the Defence of Calais, in which Jimmy lost his sight. One of Jimmy's old comrades, Sam Kydd, who was taken prisoner with him, was in the cast. The London *Star* referred to Jimmy's part in the broadcast.

★ ★ ★

W. T. Scott, of Streatham, who does such fine work for the deaf-blind, is "job-master" of Streatham Toc H, and in a recent lecture he told his audience that Streatham Toc H have now bought five television sets for patients at the British Home for Incurables, Streatham. The *Streatham News* made this front-page news on May 18th.

STOP PRESS

DERBY SWEEPSTAKE

We have held up this month's REVIEW in order to give the result of the Derby Sweepstake draw, which took place at the London Club, 191 Marylebone Road, on Friday evening, May 25th.

The result of the draw was as follows:—

Amamnestes ...	J. C. HIBBERT, New Malden	1545	North Carolina...	C. WILLIAMS, Wrexham	276
Arcot	W. C. KEAST, Clacton	317	Nourreddin ...	T. O'REILLY, Blackburn	2638
Arctic Prince ...	W. ROBINSON, Grantham	2419	Nyangal ...	H. BENNETT, Bristol	1924
Ardent Hope ...	R. FINCH, Birmingham	1117	Paradise Street...	J. ROPER, Tipton	1619
Barna Remedy	H. F. PORTER, Kingston	1875	Part Du Lyon ...	D. G. MORGAN, Tredegar	1227
Bokara	J. C. WILLIAMS, Haywards Heath	2564	Prince D'Ouilly	P. BAGWELL, Somerton	2245
Brumfield ...	B. H. BURGESS, Exeter	1975	Quick Return ...	W. HEUSHAW, Potters Bar	601
Clare Hill ...	A. S. DOLBY, Brighton	805	Raincheck ...	H. F. PORTER, Kingston	1876
Claudius ...	R. YOUNG, Dorking	1669	Sashcord ...	A. STEVENS, Winnersh	2123
Crocodile ...	T. THOMPSON, Morpeth	6	Selector II ...	W. SHAKESPEARE, Birmingham	661
Expeditious ...	C. DURKIN, Orpington	72	Signal Box ...	F. BERISFORD, Stoke	1903
Faux Pas ...	R. DOBROWOLSKI, Hove	357	Stokes	H. PUGH, N.3	489
Fraise Du Bois II	H. CRABTREE, Headquarters	29	Straight Quill ...	J. S. WHITELAM, Westcliff	1930
Ki Ming ...	W. VENESS, Peacehaven	1288	Sun Compass ...	R. H. COOK, Harrow	1046
King Cardinal ...	A. ABRAM, Reddish	561	Sybil's Nephew	E. SHEPPHERD, Hove	773
Le Tyrol ...	F. HESKETH, Greenford	891	Titian	A. JORDAN, Mitcham	582
Le Vent ...	E. G. POVEY, Southampton	2236	Turco II ...	H. G. MANNING, Brighton	1119
Malekzadeh ...	E. RUSSELL, Leeds	309	Turk's Reliance	H. DOWNS, Rishton	421
Malka's Boy ...	F. RICHARDSON, Lancing	1020	Wateringbury ...	D. J. M. STEPHENS, Carmarthenshire	330
Medway... ..	J. H. BURT, Southampton	1759	Woodcote Inn ...	BILL EDWARDS, Brighton	1344
Mystery IX ...	G. A. DAWSON, Bishop Auckland	788	Zucchero ...	I. OSTLE, Cokermouth	2296
Neron	W. BENTLEY, Manchester	943	The Field ...	F. G. HOLMAN, Thetford	184

EDITOR'S NOTE.—There are certain articles in the Braille REVIEW which have been omitted from the printed edition. These will appear next month. It has, of course, been impossible to include the Derby Sweepstake draw in the braille issue.

London Club Notes

The seven miles Championship on April 21st was attended by Mr. Richard Dimbleby, B.B.C., as starter, and the Sun, the relationship we are uncertain of.

The large crowd of spectators were rewarded by a race that will be long remembered. Tommy, in lead, settled down to a display of stylish walking, Archie Brown, Charlie Williamson, Dusty Miller, and Tommy Denmead clung together and fought it out for the full distance, providing an exciting and close race.

Passing and re-passing each other, Williamson and Miller finished with three seconds between them, with Archie seventeen seconds behind.

Miller won the S.S. Championship, one medal, two prizes and a plaque, plus twin daughters. Good old Dusty.

A headache for the handicapper—Wee MacGregor Fairgrieve again in the prize list; it was disappointing to us all to see Scotty just pipped after a valiant display for a medal awarded to all competitors beating seventy-five minutes.

At the prize-giving, Richard Dimbleby expressed his surprise at the speed of walking, and the fact that we could still breathe and talk after, and his great pleasure at being asked to such a friendly gathering.

Cup Points Result

T.B.		S.S.	
S. Tutton ...	101	A. Brown ...	98
C. Stafford ...	93	W. Miller ...	98
T. Gaygan ...	90	A. Bradley ...	81
J. Fairgrieve ...	88	P. Cryan ...	63
C. Williamson ...	64	W. Scott ...	24

Result of the 7 Miles Championship and Handicap Walk held in Regent's Park, April 21st

Competitor	Actual Time	Allow.	H'cp. Time	H'cp. Pos.
1. T. Gaygan ...	63·26	Scr.	63·26	10th
2. C. Williamson ...	64·15	2·00	62·15	8th
3. W. Miller ...	64·18	3·50	60·28	1st
4. A. Brown ...	64·35	2·30	62·05	7th
5. T. Denmead ...	65·34	3·30	62·04	6th
6. A. G. Bradley ...	68·04	6·30	61·34	4th
7. J. Fairgrieve ...	68·47	7·50	60·57	3rd
8. P. J. Cryan ...	69·58	7·30	62·28	9th
9. C. Stafford ...	72·10	10·10	62·00	5th
10. S. V. Tutton ...	73·45	12·50	60·55	2nd
11. W. T. Scott ...	75·35	11·20	64·15	11th

Prize Winners :

1st S.S. Section, Sir A. Pearson Memorial Prize:—
W. Miller.

1st T.B. Section, Sir A. Pearson Memorial Prize:—
T. Gaygan.

1st Prize Handicap Competition ...	W. Miller
2nd " " " ...	S. V. Tutton
3rd " " " ...	J. Fairgrieve
4th " " " ...	A. G. Bradley
1st Scratch Race (Medal) ...	T. Gaygan
2nd " " " ...	C. Williamson
3rd " " " ...	W. Miller

Other than Prize Winners :—

The following were awarded Bronze Medals for finishing the course in 75 mins. or less:—

A. Brown, T. Denmead, P. J. Cryan, C. Stafford.

Triangular Match

St. Dunstan's v. Pearl v. Erycinus
5 Miles Road Walk in Regent's Park, 17th April, 1951

	Result					
St. Dunstan's:	2,	3,	4,	7,	8,	11 35 points
Pearl:	1,	5,	6,	9,	10,	14 45 "
Erycinus:	12,	16,	17,	18,	19,	21 103 "

Swimming.—Swimming will begin at the Marylebone Baths (Mondays, 7—8) in the very near future. Will those St. Dunstaners wishing to take advantage of this get in touch with Mr. Jack Dawkins?

Rowing.—We remind St. Dunstaners of the kindness of the Park authorities in allowing St. Dunstaners and their escorts free rowing on Regent's Park lake—any day, any time.

T. GAYGAN.

Bridge

On March 31st we played a team of four against W. Henry's team, and we lost by 1,500.

On April 7th we held one of our social events, a Bridge drive. There were 11 tables, and we played 20 hands, just good, light-hearted bridge. The first three were E. H. Carpenter and partner, A. Needham and partner, and W. Henry and partner.

We had a visit from our old friends, Messrs. Lyons, on April 14th. This time they had their revenge and beat us by 1,200.

H. GOVER.

Indoor Section

The Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Trophy competitions are in full swing for Crib, Dominoes and Darts.

P. ASHTON.

Placements

D. McAuley, as an inspector with Messrs. Lockhead Hydraulics, Leamington Spa.

R. Green, Wakefield, as a telephonist with the Spencer Wire Company.

"One of Our Best Friends"

Death of Colonel Ball

It is with deepest regret that we announce the death, on April 14th, of Colonel Eric Ball, D.L., J.P.

His association with St. Dunstan's began in 1915, when he himself was in St. Mark's College, Chelsea, with a badly shattered right arm. In his own words, written at the time of Sir Arthur Pearson's death: "I shall never forget my first meeting with C.A.P. in a large ward at St. Mark's shortly after the advance on Loos in September, 1915. I was feeling rather sorry for myself, but feeling far more sorry for a young officer in the next bed to mine, whose eyesight had been destroyed by a German sniper on the day before the actual attack . . ."

His sympathy soon took practical shape. He became a constant visitor to St. Dunstan's, and throughout the years his interest in St. Dunstaners has strengthened, just as their own affection for him has grown. At Reunions he was a genial figure, always with a friendly word for the many St. Dunstaners he knew personally, while his gift for the brief, witty but completely appropriate word made him a popular speaker at all our functions.

At Colonel Ball's express wish, there was no mourning and the funeral ceremony was private. Sir Brunel Cohen and Mr. Askew attended, however, to represent the Executive Council of St. Dunstan's.

Sir Ian's Tribute

In a note which was published in *The Times*, Sir Ian said:—

"Colonel Eric Ball served on St. Dunstan's executive council from 1921 until his death, and, when necessary, acted as deputy chairman. He was a familiar figure among the blinded ex-Service men, whose convalescent homes he frequently visited in all parts of the country. His long service in London government and the Territorial Army enabled him to bring wide and useful experience to the council. St. Dunstaners generally and his council and committee colleagues mourn the loss of a steadfast and good friend."

Paul Baker, St. Dunstaner, writes:—

DEAR EDITOR,

I know that there are many of us with pens itching in our hands to write a letter. It is a letter which would come, were it

not that we prefer to obey a request, from our hearts, with all sincerity, to tell Mrs. Ball of our deep sympathy. We did not often have the good fortune to meet Col. Ball, but when we did we enjoyed it and felt his sincerity and friendship. We of Church Stretton remember Mrs. Ball with joy, and thus this grievous loss comes straight to us. I think, therefore, we all hope that despite the fact that we are requested not to write, you will find space to pass on our deepest sympathies and our love from those of us who grieve with her. It is more than a single loss, for St. Dunstan's will have lost a devoted friend as well. There will be hundreds of letters not sent, and many flowers not present, but in the hearts of the men of St. Dunstan's they were there.

Yours very sincerely,

PAUL BAKER.

Aston Clinton, Bucks.

Port Hall

Port Hall, the small house near the Ovingdean Home which is being used as the Holiday and Convalescent Home for women St. Dunstaners, will, it is anticipated, not be fully utilised, and it has been decided to place the vacant beds at the disposal of St. Dunstaner's wives who require convalescence or a rest. The number of beds available will be small—approximately four a week throughout the year, with the exception of the months of August and September, and a fortnight at Easter and Christmas, when no beds will be available.

If the wife of any St. Dunstaner desires to stay at Port Hall, will she please write to the Welfare Department at Headquarters. A room would have to be shared, as two rooms only are available, each containing two beds, and it is emphasised that only wives requiring convalescence or rest can be accommodated, as in view of the small number of beds involved it will not be possible to utilise them for holiday purposes.

Test Results

Typing.—C. Phillips, K. Ward, E. Barber, A. Read, E. Taylor (S.A.), H. Fowler, G. Rignall, L. Hill, J. Simpson.

Advanced Interpoint.—J. Cowan.

Preliminary.—C. Redford, T. Denmead.

Writing.—J. Walbrugh (S.A.), J. K. Robson, G. Rignall, C. Redford.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I have listened to many of Raymond Glendenning's broadcast commentaries with great pleasure. I agree with Sir Ian's comment on Bert Gaffney's letter, but I would like to suggest a good way of showing appreciation which would not be embarrassing.

Last autumn I bought Raymond Glendenning's book on Sports for Boys (of all ages) and sent it to the son of a friend in South Australia. The book arrived on Christmas Eve and the young man was very pleased with it, as I am sure any son or nephew interested in sport would be.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE CROOK.

Herne Bay.

DEAR EDITOR,

May I bring to the attention of other St. Dunstaners a matter which increases my blood pressure whenever I discuss it. The subject is National Insurance, and the way it is administered to pensioners when applying for sickness benefit.

In 1946, the Government saw fit to recognise their best unpaid servants, i.e., the wives, by granting the wife's allowance to men who had married after receiving their disability. This was all to the good, but it was not to last for long, for we men who have overcome our handicap and have taken up either industry or professions, were compelled to contribute to the National Insurance Scheme two years later, in 1948. You will note that we have to pay a full contribution of 4s. 11d. per week into this Scheme, but, and here is the snag, when we are unfortunately compelled to claim sickness benefit, we find ourselves deprived of the 10s. per week they had so gracefully granted us in 1946. My complaint, and also that of every ex-Service man I have spoken to, is that an Insurance is not a pension and that we, having to pay a full contribution for a sum assured, should be entitled to full benefits.

My object in writing this is to ask every St. Dunstaner and, in fact, every ex-Service man who is affected by these conditions, to bring this to the notice of their M.P.s and ex-Service organisations, with a view to bringing pressure to bear on the "g-national minded," cheeseparing, muddling, penny wise and pound foolish

administrators of the Health and Pensions Schemes.

Incidentally, if the Government should nationalise the Insurance Companies, what is going to happen to any Insurance in which we have participated, and again, paid the same premiums as any other person? Is advantage going to be taken of these, too?

Yours sincerely,

H. CRABTREE.

Wood Green, N.22.

DEAR EDITOR,

While writing for my Sweepstake tickets, may I take this opportunity, through the REVIEW, of thanking all members of the Staff of Headquarters, No. 8 Park Crescent, West House, and last, but foremost, Ovingdean, where I spent a very happy year whilst in training, for their kindness, understanding, help and sincerity to me.

I am proud of having served a number of years in the Royal Regiment of Artillery, and a longer period in the Manchester City Police, and am prouder still to be a St. Dunstaner.

Yours sincerely,

Brighton.

BILL EDWARDS.

Result of Draw in aid of Camp Funds

First prize—Door mat, presented by Mr. Gimber: Ticket No. 331, Mrs. Bindley, 24 Rushton Road, Desborough, Kettering.

Second prize—Leather wallet, presented by Mr. T. Shaw: Ticket No. 725, Miss Downer, Beech Hill, Kingsland, Shrewsbury.

Third prize—Boiling fowl, presented by Mr. A. Pimm: Ticket No. 362, A. Bedford, 6 Beaconsfield, New Malden.

Fourth prize—Six eggs: Ticket No. 92, Mr. N. Downs, St. Dunstan's.

"Viewpoint"

"Viewpoint," the quarterly magazine of the National Federation of the Blind, is composed entirely of material written by blind persons, not all of whom being members of the Federation. At present this magazine is only available in braille, but it is proposed to issue an inkprint edition also as soon as a circulation of 100 copies is guaranteed. The subscription for either edition is 5s. per annum, and should be sent to Mr. V. C. Grimshaw, 9 Langham House, Gosfield Street, London, W.1.

Talking Book Library

April's Acquisition

These monthly releases can be most misleading in relation to the number of books under construction. For instance, this month only one book reached the library, yet there are upwards of 20 books at various stages of completion. However, "City of Bells" is undoubtedly the best of this month's crop.

"City of Bells," by E. Googe, reader Arthur Bush, is a charming little romance of the early part of this century. The scene is set in a cathedral city in the house of the Dean and his wife, their grandson and adopted granddaughter. The Dean's nephew returns from South Africa with a game leg and sets up as a bookseller in an old house once occupied by an Italian poet who had disappeared from the neighbourhood. An actress living in the cathedral close helps to establish the book business and finally agrees to the double harness usual to make these things end happily. A very rough and ready synopsis, to be sure, but a soothing, interesting, and intimate little book, so restful, so human, and so eminently readable. A tonic for frayed nerves and brains weary of thinking!

Skoal!

"NELSON."

Reunions

The Reunion at the Polygon Hotel, Southampton, on April 18th, gave local St. Dunstaners an opportunity of meeting a new member of St. Dunstan's Executive Council, the Rev. F. Darrell Bunt, O.B.E., R.N., who is at present stationed at Portsmouth. It was a very happy gathering, as was the Reading Reunion two days later. Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were the special guests on this occasion, and Sir Ian's speech on the new pensions concessions has already been reported.

Everyone was delighted to meet Lady Fraser also at the Cardiff Reunion on April 27th. An old British Legion friend—Capt. J. J. Prince, M.B.E., General Secretary of Cardiff and District British Legion—was a popular visitor here as well.

On May 1st the men of Essex met at the Red Lion Hotel, Colchester, where the guest of honour was Major Benham, M.C., President of the Colchester Branch of the Legion.

Birmingham Swimming Gala

This year the Annual Swimming Gala at Birmingham will be on Saturday, September 22nd, at the Woodcock Street Bath.

As this is near the city centre, we shall eliminate the anxiety about trains. Do book the date now, so that we can greet teams who have previously found it impossible to come.

The events will include the following (with a separate section in each race for T.B. and S.S. where necessary):—

1 Length.

1 Length Style Competition (own choice stroke).

1 Length Backstroke.

1 Length (for those who cannot swim 3).
Plunging.

Diving (3 dives).

Relay (teams of 4—each man swimming 1 length).

Measurement of bath: 27yds. by 35ft.

Please let me have your entry by the end of August, but could you make application for one (or two) night's hospitality *before* that date, please, and as soon as possible?

P. A. FAIRHEAD.

Birmingham St. Dunstan's Club, 45 Anderston Park Road, Birmingham, 13.

Dance Night at Ovingdean

It was Monday night at St. Dunstan's

And the dance was about to start.

Our Jim was there with his cornet

And said to Dud., "What a lark!"

There's a bloke with a pipe on the piano,

It's Dudley—it is for a cert.

His boots are all nice and polished,

And, bless me, he's got a clean shirt.

The first dance is "Now is the Hour,"

The second is "Time on My Hands,"

The third is the old Hokey Kokey

For this we all join our hands.

At 8.45 it's refreshments,

There's a rush for the stairs and the lifts,

All for a wad and a cupper,

The single ones go on the cliffs.

Back we go down the staircase,

The band starts off with a rush,

Our Dud.'s got some jam on his shirt front

I'll bet Irene won't arf cuss.

Now that the last waltz is over,

The coaches are waiting outside.

We've all had a very good evening,

Goodnight, chums, I do feel so tired.

A. G. EMERSON.

Brighton Notes

Ovingdean

It would be foolish to miss the opportunity of taking full advantage of the advance publicity from last month's article, "Calling All Sportsmen," and so we will begin our notes from Ovingdean this month by drawing the attention of all readers to the fact that our Annual Sports Day will this year be held on Saturday, July 21st, commencing at 2.30 p.m.

We hope that many St. Dunstaners will take heart from the clarion call from Messrs. Gaygan and Mudge, and we are looking forward to a very large number of entrants this year. The main items on the programme will be:—

Throwing the Cricket Ball.
70 yards for Totally Blind.
70 yards for Semi-Sighted.
Throwing the Discus.
Standing Long Jump.
Putting the Weight.
Throwing the Medicine Ball.
Relay.
Tug-o'-War.

There will also be many other items, and if you would like to receive a full list of events and tea arrangements please get in touch with Miss Guilbert, at Ovingdean. Once you have received the list, then the next step is to make up your mind which races you wish to enter, and send your name in to Mr. Jarrold not later than June 30th. Many of you who have entered in previous years will be glad to know that arrangements are in hand for the Sports Pitch to be levelled, so that it will be in good condition for running.

Individual invitations will again be sent to Sussex St. Dunstaners, but, of course, we hope that any St. Dunstaner who may be down this way will make application for a Tea Ticket for himself and his escort as early as possible. This is a great help with our catering arrangements.

Now that it is "officially" Spring and will soon be Summer, there has been a steady increase in the number of visitors to the Centre. Amongst those from abroad this month came Mr. Aaen, from Norway. He was particularly interested in the industrial training given here. From much nearer at hand came Miss O'Brien, the Matron of the Hove General Hospital. We were particularly pleased to welcome

her, both at Ovingdean and later at West House, because many St. Dunstaners have been nursed at the Hove Hospital. Miss O'Brien expressed the hope that she would be able to come again, and we shall certainly look forward to her next visit. Another visitor this month was Alderman Green, the Mayor of Worthing, and we also entertained two research workers from the Nuffield Foundation.

The Ovingdean Darts Team has been busy this month, too, visiting such places as Barcombe, Horsham, and Handcross in Sussex, but also going as far afield as the Hawker Aircraft Sports Club, at Langley, in Buckinghamshire. In each case they were given a warm welcome and thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

For the holiday men there has been quite a varied programme, including two afternoon drives each week. A party attended Fontwell Races at the beginning of April, and later in the month another group of racegoers spent an enjoyable day at Plumpton.

Within the last week the "Deaf Reunion" has been held at Ovingdean.

We sincerely hope our deaf friends have enjoyed their stay with us this time and that they will look forward to coming again, as we shall to having them back later this year.

West House Notes

During April we combined with Ovingdean for the Fontwell Park and Plumpton Race Meetings.

You may remember that there *were* one or two warm days during the early part of the month! On those sunny afternoons several of the men in the Sick Ward were wheeled out on to the terrace and others sat out in the garden. It at least gave us a glimpse of how much we shall all appreciate this new garden *when* Summer comes!

During the early part of the month a party of twelve from Toc H took part in a domino tournament, and at the beginning of May we were very pleased indeed to be hosts to the Deaf Reunion, who spent an afternoon and evening at West House.

West House Chapel

Services on Sunday at the West House Chapel are now going to be held at 10 a.m., instead of the early evening service.

“In Memory”

Duncan Munro, *Royal Navy*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Duncan Munro, of East Coker, Somerset. He was fifty years old.

He came to us in September, 1931, his sight having failed as a result of his service in the 1914—1918 war, but his health also was so affected that training was not possible. He had been ill for very many years and he died at his home on April 18th.

Members of the British Legion attended the funeral; the coffin was covered with the Union Jack and among the many flowers was a poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Private Thomas Hetherington, 13th Northumberland Fusiliers

We record with deep regret the death of T. Hetherington, which occurred at West House.

Tommy Hetherington was wounded at Maricourt in 1916 and came to us the following year. He trained as a poultry farmer and mat-maker, but for some years now had spent a considerable amount of time at our Homes, owing to his very bad health. He was very ill indeed for several weeks before his death on March 23rd, Good Friday.

Tommy will be greatly missed by his friends in the Sick Ward at West House, and by the staff. He was well known for his cheerful disposition and was always ready with a smile and a joke.

The flowers at the funeral included a poppy wreath from Sir Ian and some beautiful wreaths of spring flowers. Among those who attended were Matron Pain, St. Dunstaners D. Nicol, J. Hiscock and W. Baughan, and members of the West House staff. He was buried in the St. Dunstan's plot at Brighton.

Tommy was a single man. Our sympathy goes out to his sister and niece.

Births

DOBROWOLSKI.—On April 8th, to Betty, wife of Roman Dobrowolski, of Hove, a son.

LITTLE.—On April 20th, to the wife of A. Little, of Carlisle, a son.

KEMPE.—On April 19th, to the wife of S. Kempe, of Porkellis, near Helston, a son—Robert Melville.

Marriages

DEAUVILLE—SMITH.—On December 23rd, Ernest L. Deauville, lately of Manchester, now of Sudbury, Middlesex, to Mrs. Olive Smith.

MORTIMER—TATTAM.—On April 21st, George Mortimer, of Witham, Essex, to Miss Pamela Tattam.

Deaths

Our very sincere sympathy goes out to the following:—

BUTTERY.—To Frank Buttery, of Edinburgh, whose wife died on April 29th.

MIDDLEMISS.—To R. Middlemiss, of Plymouth, whose wife died on April 25th.

NEWALL.—To H. Newall, of Manchester, whose father passed away on March 26th, at the age of eighty-six.

OLIVER.—To C. G. S. Oliver, of Norbury, S.W.16, whose wife died on May 2nd.

Miss N. Stephenson-Browne

We have heard with regret of the death, on April 25th, of Miss Nina Stephenson-Browne, who was associated with St. Dunstan's in the very early days, and in later years was on the outside staff of the Appeals Department. Miss Stephenson-Browne was a devoted worker for St. Dunstan's and a wide circle of St. Dunstaners will regret her passing.

Young St. Dunstaners

Olive Griffiths, Woodingdean, Brighton, is now a State Registered Nurse.

John Stayt, Regent's Park, has been awarded the Rothschild Scholarship. He is waiting to go into the Royal Marines and will finish his training at Caius College, Cambridge, later.

Marriages

Leonard Bush, Elland, Yorkshire, on March 24th, to Miss Mary Brook.

Margaret Cornwell, in April, to Mr. Percy Basham. The bridegroom was severely wounded in Burma and is a wheel-chair case. He met Margaret when she was a nursing sister at Richmond, and he was a patient there.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

St. Dunstan's Prayer *

by ALFRED NOYES

Thou who never canst err, for Thyself art the Way;
Thou whose infinite kingdom is flooded with day;
Thou whose eyes behold all, for Thyself art the Light,
Look down on us gently who journey by night.

By the pity revealed in Thy loneliest hour,
Forsaken, self-bound and self-emptied of power;
Thou who, even in death, hadst all heaven in sight,
Look down on us gently who journey by night.

On the road to Emmaus they thought Thou wast dead,
Yet they saw Thee and knew in the breaking of bread.
Though the day was far spent, in Thy face there was light.
Look down on us gently who journey by night.

AT the top of this column is printed a very moving verse by Mr. Alfred Noyes, one of the foremost poets of our day. Saint Dunstan was, of course, Archbishop of Canterbury, and if he was a saint who took a special interest in any group, it was craftsmen, for he himself was a craftsman. So far as I know, Saint Dunstan did not, during his life, take any special interest in the blind, and he certainly could not in any historical sense be called the patron saint of the blind. However, the behaviour of saints is not only a matter of history, but also of the imagination, and I like to think that St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners have succeeded in establishing that Saint Dunstan could be our patron saint.

Let us then agree with Mr. Noyes that he is, and thank the poet for his beautiful lines.

The Honours List—Mr. Askew, C.B.E.

Mr. W. G. Askew, O.B.E., Secretary of St. Dunstan's, was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (C.B.E.) in the Birthday Honours List. His lifelong work for St. Dunstan's has had its influence on the lives of all of us for he has in turn occupied the posts of Pensions Officer, Business Manager and Secretary to the Council. More recently as a senior executive of lifelong experience, Mr. Askew's knowledge has been a

* This poem appeared in the *Sunday Times* of May 27th with the comment "Yesterday was the feast day of Saint Dunstan, the 'Minister of Eternal Light' to those in darkness."

help to the blind world as a whole, and he was a leading and most valuable member of the Ministry of Labour's Working Party on the Employment of the Blind, to whose report he contributed much, and which was reviewed in the February number of this magazine.

St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's owe him much for his ability, devotion, patience and sympathy, and I feel sure that St. Dunstaners all over the world, and the Council and staff, will join to congratulate Mr. Askew on becoming a C.B.E.

A notable distinction in the blind world is the barony conferred upon Ernest Whitfield. Now a man in the fifties, he became blind when he was twenty-one years of age, and took up music as a career. He twice stood for Parliament as a Labour candidate, and was a Governor of the B.B.C. during the last five years. At one time he was Honorary Treasurer of the N.I.B. and he is now President of the National Federation of the Blind, a body of professional workers.

All blind people will rejoice that so high an honour should come to one of our people, and will offer their congratulations to Ernest Whitfield.

The Honours List also includes the name of a St. Dunstaner. Dudley Tregent, who lives in South Yarra, Victoria, Australia, receives the M.B.E. for services to ex-servicemen. Tregent was blinded in the First World War, and I well remember discussing his future with him and encouraging him to take up Law, which he read successfully, becoming a solicitor. I am told he has a thriving practice and he has done much to help ex-servicemen, particularly his blinded comrades, in their organisation as well as in legal matters. We are proud of his success and send him our congratulations and best wishes.

Ban on Football Broadcasts

I have had a number of letters of protest from St. Dunstaners about the Football League's decision not to allow matches to be broadcast at the time they are being played. It occurred to me that the listeners really would not mind if a recording was taken throughout the match and the broadcast began the moment the match was over; indeed, I thought listeners would like this, so I wrote to Sir William Haley, the Director General of the B.B.C., to ask him if it was their intention to do this. In his reply, he says, "No, we have no intention of broadcasting recordings after the match is over. We feel that the essence of any commentary is its immediacy and that the solution proposed by the Football League would not be acceptable to listeners." There is something in this question of "immediacy," because one has the feeling of being present as it is occurring, but I am inclined to think Sir William exaggerates it. What do my readers think?

I have written to the Football League, asking them to consider, amongst all the other matters they are weighing in their minds, the hardship to many blind people and old people who cannot stand the wintry weather, and to those who are bedridden and in hospital, and to express the hope that they will come to terms with the B.B.C. As it takes two to make a bargain, I have also written to the B.B.C. in similar terms. For what it is worth, I have added the suggestion that the B.B.C. should advertise the football match so as to induce people to go to it, and thus compensate the Football League for the fact that the broadcast may keep some people away. The power of broadcasting any advertisement is enormous, and by mentioning the match in advance, or by getting the commentators to say something from time to time that makes you wish you were there, they might do much to keep up the gate money which is, of course, the Football League's great anxiety.

IAN FRASER.

The Honours List

The following names in the King's Birthday Honours List will also be of interest to St. Dunstaners:—

Captain A. A. Andrews, of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Air Force Association, receives the C.B.E.

Joseph Challinor, Secretary, North Regional Association for the Blind, and

Thomas H. Smith, General Secretary of the National League for the Blind, receive the M.B.E.

Squadron Leader William Simpson, D.F.C., who was himself severely injured in the 1939-45 war (he wrote of his experiences in his book *The Way of Recovery*), is awarded the O.B.E. for his services as a member of the National Advisory Council on Employment of the Disabled.

London Club Notes

Outdoor Section

Swimming take place, 7—8 p.m., on Mondays, at Seymour Baths. *Boats* are available on Regent's Park lake again this summer.

The race for the Farmer Cup took place over seven miles at Brighton, on May 19th. "Professor" Jimmy Edwards was the starter. From the results which follow it will be seen that Tommy Gaygan brought off the double by winning the Scratch and the Handicap events.

We are indebted to Miss Smith, of Ovingdean, for this account of the Walk:

"The Farmer Cup"

Ten pairs of white cotton shorts lined up
To compete for St. Dunstan's Farmer Cup.
Five were called "London" and five "The Rest"—

I knew that they faced a gruelling test.
"Take it from here!" Jimmy Edwards said;
With muscles twitching they gazed ahead.
"Get ready... Get set..." and then "Go!"
they heard,

And off they went on the final word.
I waited to give a cheer and clap
When our Heroes reached the second lap;
One man shot past long before the rest—
"He must have taken a bus," I guessed.
At last the second and third appeared,
And each in passing was clapped and
cheered.

A voice from the crowd was heard to say,
As the tenth man trudged his weary way,
"It's wicked to drag him on with tape—
He's tired of walking, but can't escape!"
It wasn't long till the leading man
Was back again where he first began;
And so he started the final round—
One foot advancing, one on the ground.
The crowd was bursting with merry quips—
"Mae West would envy those swinging
hips!"

The Mayor and Mayoress were there in
style

To mark the end of the seventh mile . . .
The race was over, the numbers up,
The "Rest of England" won the cup,
But London's boys—though they did not
win—

Could still lay claim to the FIRST MAN IN.

"SMITHIE" (V.A.D.).

Handicap Times and Order of Finishing

Competitor	Actual Time	H'cap Time	H'cap Allow.	H'cap Poss.
1st T. Gaygan	60-19	60-19	Scr.	* 1st
2nd C. Williamson	62-52	61-52	1-00	† 5th
3rd W. Miller	62-57	61-47	1-10	† 4th
4th A. Brown	63-58	62-38	1-20	* 8th
5th T. Denmead	64-15	62-05	2-10	† 6th
6th J. Fairgrieve	66-26	61-06	5-20	* 3rd
7th P. J. Cryan	67-18	60-48	6-30	* 2nd
8th C. Stafford	71-24	62-24	9-00	* 7th
9th S. V. Tutton	73-21	63-01	10-20	† 10th
10th W. T. Scott	74-59	62-39	12-20	* 9th

*London. †The Rest

Team Placings S.S. S.S. T.B. T.B.

1st The Rest	3	4	2	9	Total 18 pts.
2nd London	7	10	1	6	24 pts.

Prize Winners

1st Handicap Race.	T. Gaygan.
2nd	P. J. Cryan.
3rd	J. Fairgrieve.
Consolation Prize,	W. T. Scott.

Bridge

The inter-club match between L. Douglas's team of 4 and E. Carpenter's team of 4 had unfortunately to be scratched through chapters of mishaps. On May 19th we played the Purley Bridge Club at Headquarters. One of our teams won by 1900, while the other team lost by 2230. This means that we lost the match by the narrow margin of 330. There was a match against J. Waller's team of 8 on May 26th, which they won.

Indoor Section

Darts matches have been played at Kennington, Vauxhall, and St. Martin's Lane, with varying degrees of success. One match of special mention was the match against the Loughton Darts Club, the game being halved with our hosts and played under very pleasant circumstances at The Armoury, Epping.

May 20th found 15 men with 15 wives or escorts coaching to Brighton, guests of our old friend, Mr. Cheeseman. Derby Day saw a large party off to Epsom, lots of sunshine, lots of songs, lots of lovely sandwiches, etc., not so many winners, but a good time had by all.

We are glad to see so many more of the second war showing more interest in the Club. Meanwhile we still invite your suggestions and constructive criticism through the post or suggestion box in the hall. Should you visit H.Q. during the day, then have a look at our notice board, there is almost certain to be something there to interest you.

JOHN A. MUDGE.

Derby Sweepstake, 1951

Another Derby Day has come and gone. In one of the most amazing races ever known, in which the favourite was last and other well-favoured horses were left at the post, the hopes of those who had drawn horses rose and fell.

Slightly fewer tickets were sold than last year—2,747 as against 2,845—but nevertheless the substantial sum of £325 was left for distribution in accordance with the usual rules, after printing and postage expenses (£18 7s. 6d.) had been deducted.

The draw at Headquarters, on May 25th, had been made by Messrs. Frank Rhodes and Eddie Edwards, with Mr. Willis officiating, while Miss Ibbettson and a number of other St. Dunstaners and friends looked on.

The result of the draw was included in the last REVIEW, and it only remains to give the final prizes and the fortunate prizewinners. They were:

1st Arctic Prince	W. Robinson	2419
	Grantham, £162 10s.	
2nd Sybil's Nephew	E. Sheppard, Hove	773
	£65	
3rd Signal Box	F. Berisford, Stoke	1903
	£32 10s.	

£65 was divided among thirty other starters and the holders of these tickets received £2 3s. 4d. each. They were as follows:—

Arcot ...	W. C. KEAST, Clacton	317
Ardent Hope ...	R. FINCH, Birmingham	1117
Bokara ...	J. C. WILLIAMS, Haywards Heath	2564
Clare Hill ...	A. S. DOLBY, Brighton	805
Claudius ...	R. YOUNG, Dorking	1669
Crocodile ...	T. THOMPSON, Morpeth	6
Expeditious ...	C. DURKIN, Orpington	72
Faux Pas ...	R. DOBROWOLSKI, Hove	357
Fraise Du Bois II	H. CRABTREE, Headquarters	29
Ki Ming ...	W. VENESS, Peacehaven	1288
Le Tyrol ...	F. HESKETH, Greenford	891
Le Vent... ..	E. G. POVEY, Southampton	2236
Malka's Boy ...	F. RICHARDSON, Lancing	1020
Medway ...	J. H. BURT, Southampton	1759
Mystery IX ...	G. A. DAWSON, Bishop Auckland	788
North Carolina	C. WILLIAMS, Wrexham	276
Nourreddin ...	T. O'REILLY, Blackburn	2638
Nyangal ...	H. BENNETT, Bristol	1924
Paradise Street	J. ROPER, Tipton	1619
Part Du Lyon ...	D. G. MORGAN, Tredegar	1227
Raincheck ...	H. F. PORTER, Kingston	1876
Sashcord ...	A. STEVENS, Winnersh	2123
Stokes ...	H. PUGH, N.3	489
Straight Quill ...	J. S. WHITELAM, Westcliff	1930
Sun Compass ...	R. H. COOK, Harrow	1046
Turco II ...	H. G. MANNING, Brighton	1119

Turk's Reliance	H. DOWNS, Rishton	421
Wateringbury ...	D. J. M. STEPHENS, Carmarthenshire	330
Woodcote Inn ...	BILL EDWARDS, Brighton	1344
Zucchero ...	I. OSTLE, Cockermouth	2296

The remaining horses listed last month did not start.

The Morecambe Holiday Camp

Twenty-five St. Dunstaners and their wives last month enjoyed a wonderful holiday at Middleton Sands, near Morecambe, as the guests of the Middleton Tower Holiday Camp, Ltd.

In the words of W. McCarthy, of Stretford: "From the minute we entered the gates the fun commenced. It was just wonderful. We were fully occupied with shows, pictures, dancing, swimming, housey-housey, boxing matches, and many other fun affairs. Matron Davies came one day and luckily won the Housey-Housey. That meant another treat for the boys—drinks at the bar."

One of the regular features of the Camp is a Talent Competition, and four St. Dunstaners entered—Messrs. Arnold Clark, Bentley, McCarthy and Jock Macfarlane. From sixteen turns, four judges from the audience of 1,200 had to select the best entertainer. Jock Macfarlane was the winner, and in September he goes back for the All-England Finals—and for a prize of £200.

Jock himself, like every other St. Dunstaner who was at the Camp, cannot speak too highly of everything that was done for their happiness. He said: "It was the nearest to Utopia that we could get. They seemed to have everything except a cemetery. Nobby Clark, of Manchester, got the people singing wherever he went with his harmonica. The entertainment staff were replicas of our late Bill Tovell—same style, same mannerisms. Grand fellows, all."

Braille Competition Successes

Congratulations to R. Goding and J. Todd, from Ovingdean, who were awarded prizes for their braille reading at the Competition held at the National Library for the Blind on June 2nd. They competed in Class C (those blinded since 1938). Congratulations to F. Rhodes and W. Henry, who also won prizes, but in the section for those who lost their sight before 1938.

Reunion of the Muffled Drums

Ovingdean was invaded on May 3rd by the "Muffled Drums," and the staff set about the business of falling into the fun with them with great gusto. Apart from the entertainment at the "Plough" and "White Horse," there were coach trips out for tea and the usual dances; on Saturday the deaf boys were entertained at the Brighton Deaf Club, and on Sunday by the men and staff at West House. This reunion coincided with Fallowfield's entry into St. Dunstan's, and at the dinner he spoke of the day he arrived, when Matron Pain and Mr. Banks of the staff, and Freddy King were the only three able to talk to him, but what strides had been made since that day! St. Dunstan's Officials and Staff and the hearing men were master artists at the Manual, and no other organisation had trained totally deaf men as St. Dunstan's had. He felt he could look back on the past with satisfaction, and to the future with confidence. He congratulated his deaf comrades on their various successes, and if they thought they had no success to be proud of they had better light their pipes and think it over. Success was not gained without the help of their wives, so he thanked the deaf men's wives; he thanked the hearing St. Dunstaners who could talk to them, especially those who had to do it under difficulties, such as the one-armed and those who had lost their fingers; thanked those wives and children (now grown up) who could talk to them, and finally St. Dunstan's.

Joe Jordan also spoke during the reunion and said the deaf men could always rely upon St. Dunstan's to help them wherever it was possible.

Young St. Dunstaners

Barbara Sayers, who is a member of Northampton Athletic Club, has won the County Trophy, a silver rose bowl, and has been offered training for the All-England Athletic Championship.

★ ★ ★

Ian Marsden, who is eighteen, is the youngest member of the Alderholt Rifle Club, which shoots with the National Rifle Association, and has won the prize money for the last two months with an average of 99.

Marriages

On June 9th, Alfred Jennings, Heaton, Bradford, to Miss Millicent Chumley. Mary Dembenski, on June 9th.

Clarice Temperton, Hull, on March 31st, to Bernard Foster.

Doreen Furness, Warrington, on April 19th, to William P. Capper.

Mavis Randall, Hove, on March 31st, to Derek Tilbury-Wetherill.

Maurice Baughn, on September 2nd, 1950, to Miss Louisa Padginton.

Neighbours

They came into our street some time ago, and occupied a house adjoining ours. Soon the father's limitations began to take shape. He seemed harsh to his son, Jack, maybe not quite so much to his daughter, Jill. When he went out he was always in a hurry, casting furtive glances around: never easing his pace. In his dark, chalk-stripe suit, crowned with a shiny hat, he always looked well groomed. Not so his wife, she sunk to an impossibly skinny scarecrow. When the husband was home the house was noisy, whether due to an ebullition of high spirits or a father tormenting his family to relieve his frustrated ego we never knew. One day we saw the wife leave the house, cross the road and stand there, and the father push Jill out of the house. She almost fell to the ground squealing before reaching her mother—who drove her back. Then Jack was driven out and, with Jill, they went to their mother who, with determined mien, took them back to the house. In seconds an indescribable uproar ensued. Came a day when a sedate visitor called, chatted, examined the children, and left. Following this the family went out together. The mother became quite debonair. When migrants were gathering about Southampton Water the family linked up with them to spend the winter in the sunshine in Africa. We had been held fascinated by Mr. and Mrs. Swallow raising a family in a nest which they built beneath the eaves of our house. The babies' flying lessons seemed a rough business. We had seen the "Elder" call to announce the day of departure, and to examine the children. We also knew that all the Jacks and Jills, when tired, would ride on the backs of older and stronger birds.

W. E. BROOKES,

Talking Book Library

Mono-volumic May

Like most invented words, the meaning of my beautiful adjective is obvious at a glance. I must apologise, however, in case the word mono-volumic does actually exist. Now, cutting the cackle, here is the solitary "hoss"—

"Sir Richard Grenville," by A. L. Rowse, reader Richard Wessel, is most interesting as it throws a fuller light on this national hero, whom we all know simply as the captain of the "Revenge." It was bad luck for him that it was Drake and not himself who sailed completely round the world. As colonist, merchant venturer and country gentleman he had few, if any, equals, and he specialised in legalised piracy. He was in fact a rogue, with a knowledge of how to work the law. A fierce individualist and a most valuable problem child for the Queen. Read and enjoy!

Better luck for the St. Leger!

"NELSON."

America and France Honour

St. Dunstaners

The Migel Medal for Outstanding Services for the Blind, which the American Foundation for the Blind awards annually, has been presented this year to Col. Edwin A. Baker, O.B.E., M.C., Managing Director of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

As head of the Canadian National Institute for more than thirty years, Edwin Baker has been responsible for carrying out the governmental programme for the care of the blind. The first Canadian officer to be blinded in World War I, he has been a constant inspiration to all blind people, and especially to the Canadian war-blinded.

On Friday, May 25th, Mr. W. T. Curtis-Willson, M.B.E., J.P., had the honour of the Chevalier of the Legion of Honour conferred upon him by the French Ambassador, M. René Massigli.

At a ceremony at the Ambassador's residence in London, Mr. Curtis-Willson heard the Ambassador pay tribute to his services in promoting the adoption of war-devastated Falaise by the Borough of Hove, and of his work in the field of international journalism (he was last year President of the Newspaper Society).

Blackpool Notes

We missed May REVIEW notes, and I was sorry not to record April 25th, when a merry party went to Squires Gate Aero Club for free drinks and freer laughter.

On Whit Saturday we went to Scorton for home-made tea, and on Whit Sunday to the "Boot and Shoe" for stronger refreshments—there somebody must have drunk less wisely and well, coining a new name, "The Shoot and Boo."

On 17th to the Lakes—returning at a late hour.

On May 25th we went to join the revellers who were spending a week as the guests of the Directors of Middleton Camp. Leaving the Blackpool Home at 11 a.m., we arrived at the camp soon after mid-day. We had a warm welcome from the staff of the camp, and were shown all the attractions. Lunch was served, after which we joined the Bingo party and the sum of £6 10s. 0d. went, temporarily, into the pocket of a blue jacket!!! After tea we enjoyed the variety show in the camp theatre—before leaving our St. Dunstaners staying in camp joined the visiting party for a drink, so the winnings were soon swallowed up . . . in more senses than one. We arrived "home" at 11 p.m., after twelve happy hours. A special vote of thanks to our hosts.

May 29th saw a small party sail away to the Isle of Man—this special treat was from our "Blackpool Friends," and was much appreciated. Unfortunately, this was a rare occasion and not to be considered a regular part of holidays.

"NELLIE DEAN."

Blackpool.

Test Results

Typing.—C. Phillips, K. Ward, E. Barber, A. Read, E. Taylor (S.A.), H. Fowler, G. Rignall, L. Hill, J. Simpson.

Advanced Interpoint.—J. Cowan.

Preliminary.—C. Redford, T. Denmead.

Writing.—J. Walbrough (S.A.), J. K. Robson, G. Ridnall, C. Redford.

Advertisement

FOR SALE.—Hand mortising machine, complete with eight chisels from $\frac{1}{2}$ in. to 1 in. In excellent condition.—Apply T. W. Chamberlain, 27 Butts Hill Road, Woodley, Reading, Berks.

Mechanisms and Efficiency

We have all heard the clanging bell of the fire engine rushing along. Some of us remember the old days, with the red and brass engine drawn by two white horses, showering sparks and smoke in its trail, more dramatic but hardly as efficient as to-day's mechanised monsters.

Perhaps you would like to know what goes on in the seconds, I repeat seconds, before the engines appear upon the highway intent upon their mission.

Come with me to a typical suburban fire station, and we will make an imaginary call.

The building, is of just two storeys, the lower housing the "Appliances," as the engines are known, also the watchroom, which is always manned, with its multitude of dials, switches and its telephone, its recorders and, of course, forms. The floor above houses the dormitory, Control Room, recreation room and mess room.

We stand in a corner in the watchroom. Through this room's long window we can see the appliance room, and be out of the way when the "Bells go down."

All is peaceful. Then, without warning, a recorder starts to ring. The bells all over the station ring out, long ringing, no ceasing! The Watch room attendant puts on his form the time and number of the alarm where the call was made.

The crews of the appliances are meanwhile running to their charges, the driver of No. 1 Appliance, Pump Escape, starts his engine, the crew scramble aboard, the station officer repeats the number, automatically shown on an illuminated panel on the wall, and as the watchroom attendant depresses a switch the doors of the station open and with the crew dressing themselves in duty rig, the Pump Escape roars forth on to the forty-foot approach yard with its full view of the road, and is, within fifteen seconds, turning on to the highway and speeding on its errand.

Even as Appliance No. 2 roars forth, the news is being given to Control on the floor above, and the administration staff go into action, filling the spaces below, now devoid of appliances, with the next reserves, drawn from the neighbouring stations.

The form filled in by the watchroom duty men shows time of call, how made, and the times of departures of appliances to the second; the time of call by alarm is

automatically registered by the recorder system.

The clanging bells stop, but in the control room the short-wave wireless is switched on, ready to receive and act upon minute to minute news from the scene of the outbreak, ready to call in other stations, send a hose waggon, for long service of water from either open water or town mains, send a turntable tower for high direction of action or any special peculiar circumstance of the place.

Let us travel for a short space upon the Pump Escape. As the driver swings on to the highway, the Station Officer, in charge, calls over his shoulder to the crew, "23 Green Street by Blank Road, nearest hydrants 47, 93, and 51 Blank." Already the picture of the district is forming in the minds of the crew. By now all are fully garbed, leather and rubber long boots, belts with accoutrements, cord belt, and all surmounted by the new lightweight helmet, similar to the crash helmets used by motor cyclists, but of course with narrowing peak and flared neck guard, but these helmets are reversible to enable the men to use them as glare shields or heat deflectors in bright or oil blazes. As the appliance pulls up at the scene of the fire, the crew descend, and as the leading firemen enter the building to ascertain that all life is removed, the ordinary firemen set to fitting hose to hydrants and preparing in organised haste to get all things under way.

The firemen entering the building carry with them a light hose constantly connected to the forty or fifty gallon tank in the engine, and which, as the engine has stopped hauling the appliance along the roads, is now in gear with the pump pressurising the tank of water to give the firemen all the help. The driver starts his pump as he throws his gear into neutral, applies his hand brake, and then, with a further depressing of the clutch and throwing a small lever, starts his pump, but he then alights from his seat and works his accelerator according to demand from the side of the engine, as he is then also able to watch his gauges and keep his pressure high enough.

I hope to tell you, in another issue, how the station works inside and during its less hectic moments. Until then, "Reset the bells."

JOHN A. MUDGE.

Brighton Notes

The days and weeks are rapidly speeding by and we are already half-way through the term. Holiday men are arriving here in increasing numbers and—at last—the weather is getting more seasonal.

During May we have been most fortunate in receiving a number of invitations for both holiday-makers and for the trainees. An unusual but very much enjoyed invitation came from Bertram Mills' Circus, for their opening performance in Brighton. About 20 holiday men from Ovingdean, 12 from West House, and, for the first time, a small part of children holidaying at Northgate House thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon's entertainment.

On the occasion of the visit of H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth to Brighton, a group of St. Dunstaners from Ovingdean and West House joined with other ex-Service Organisations in lining the route to the Royal Pavilion. It was, very fortunately, a fine day, and so there was a large crowd of people to welcome the Princess.

Our visitors to Ovingdean this month have again been numerous. We were very glad to have another visit from Sir Neville and Lady Pearson. This time they brought with them Mrs. Herod and the well-known journalist, Mr. Collie Knox, both of whom were very interested in all they saw at Ovingdean, and later at West House. From overseas this month we welcomed Dr. and Mrs. Chitnis, from India. Dr. Chitnis knows G. K. Unny very well, and promised to try to see him again on his return to India. Another visitor from the British Council was Mr. Matsumoto, a United Nations delegate from Japan. He was much impressed by the various instruction available at St. Dunstan's. In addition to the visitors mentioned, there have been increasing numbers from the Women's Institute, British Legion, and similar organisations, as well as friends of individual St. Dunstaners.

The Shooting contests remain as popular as ever, and there have also been a good number of Darts Matches played off during the month. Invitations included those to the Shipwrights Arms and the Social Club, Surbiton.

On many occasions, most notably the various Race Meetings which have been held this month, Ovingdean has been joined by men from West House and West House

also acted as hosts to Ovingdean on the occasions of a Domino Tournament and Whist Drive during May.

As the end of the month drew near, we found an increasing number of men arriving on holiday, until by May 30th two coaches of holiday men and one coach from West House were able to set out for the Derby. Our numbers were smaller than in previous years, because the Derby was being run on a weekday, which deprived the trainees of an opportunity to join the outing—but when the great moment came those left at home made full use of the wireless sets in the Home and in the workshops!

That's all the news from us this month, except to remind you all once again that Sports Day entries should reach Mr. Jarrold not later than June 30th please.

Northgate House

Summer has returned again to Northgate; not that we do not have a perpetual summer of our own making, but we are grateful to the Weather Man for some sunshine. The puzzles are all away in the cupboard and the prawning nets have appeared again. The catch to date is two magnificent landings of best quality prawns and one plaice. Matron was seen to remove the plaice from the washing machine with no more than a sigh. (It is unfortunate that the washing machine performs twice daily, as it would make a perfect aquarium.)

Mr. Bertram Mills invited us to his circus and he received a letter from us afterwards telling him exactly what we liked best and just how good we thought his performance was. Acrobats and performing dogs on bicycles were the favourites.

Wild flowers have been very beautiful this Spring, and the house is filled with our "country bunches" of cowslips, wild violets and buttercups. The long wavy grass on East Hill is over Charlie Daly's head, and makes good cover for Cowboys and Indians crawling through the undergrowth. We took a picnic up there on the loveliest afternoon this year, and could not count the larks which sang a never-ending song over our heads. There was also a crumbling old haystack which the farmer had begun carting. We willingly completed the demolition side of the job for him.

It has been a long winter, but when summer comes to Rottingdean it brings every reward.

Birmingham Club

On Sunday, June 3rd, the Birmingham and District St. Dunstan's Club held their summer outing. The weather was glorious and could not have been better if we had ordered it. We travelled in two charabancs and after going through some of the most wonderful country in Warwickshire, we pulled up at the "Red Lion" to remove some of the dryness. Then on for a little longer until we stopped for a packed lunch in a beauty spot which was one of the few very old English villages. The inhabitants wondered who we were; even the dogs did not seem to like us, but when they knew we were St. Dunstan's brigade, everything was all right. After a beautiful drive we arrived at Overstone Park, where our host, Mrs. King, was waiting for us. It was a grand place and Mrs. King made us all feel most welcome. A lovely tea followed, then games, and after some four hours in the grand sunshine we made our way to the charabancs for home. Our sincere thanks to all helpers from the Birmingham Red Cross, not forgetting Miss Fairhead, Miss Gough and Mr. Colling—for their splendid attention. It was a great pity that many more members of the Club did not turn up after Miss Fairhead had gone to such trouble in organising such a grand outing. I personally make an appeal to all members of the Club to let us have better attendances at our meetings in the future.

JOHN H. NEW.

Wolverhampton.

Motoring Concession for Disabled Refused

On the Finance Bill in the House of Commons, Sir Ian Fraser moved a new clause which would permit a person who was so disabled that he had to use a motor car or invalid chair to get to his work, to deduct the extra cost from his income tax. The nation and the individual gained when a disabled man goes to work, said Sir Ian, and the cost of motoring, when you included purchase tax, petrol duty, etc., was very high.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer refused on the grounds that it would be difficult to decide who was so disabled that he could not go to work without private transport, and that it was administratively difficult to benefit a particular class by tax exemption.

"Family Doctor"

Arrangements have now been completed for the publication in braille of "Family Doctor," the new monthly journal published by the B.M.A. To quote from the editorial letter to readers of the first issue: "'Family Doctor' will give you in straightforward English the advice and guidance of doctors who know what they are talking about. 'The British Medical Journal,' for over 100 years the doctors' own journal, has placed its experience and its knowledge at the disposal of this new health magazine for the layman. 'Family Doctor' will bring directly to the public from the medical profession simply presented and well-illustrated information on all those things that affect the well-being of the individual and of the family."

The braille edition will contain everything included in the letterpress issue, except advertisements. It will cost exactly the same price as the letterpress edition, 1s. per copy, or 12s. per annum. As this small charge barely covers the actual cost of printing paper, readers will readily appreciate that the heavy expenditure involved in this venture will only be justified if the magazine receives wide support from blind persons throughout the English-speaking world.

The braille edition will commence with the September issue, St. Dunstaners who are interested should get in touch with Mr. Cooper, Men's Supplies.

St. Dunstaners Ordained

The Rev. Michael Norman was, on May 20th, ordained a Priest of the Church of England by the Archbishop of Canterbury, in Canterbury Cathedral. Since his ordination as a Deacon last June, the Rev. Norman has been Assistant Curate at the Church of St. Peter in Thanet, Broadstairs.

Among those attending the Ordination were Matron Pain, Mrs. Broughton, and Mrs. Jenner, who, as Miss Patterson, was a driver at Blackpool for many years.

★ ★ ★

On the same day, Stanley Oliver, who has been studying at the Clifton Theological College, Bristol, was ordained a Deacon in Southwark Cathedral.

Our congratulations and good wishes go out to these St. Dunstaners who have chosen this most arduous but most satisfying profession.

Letter to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Can any reader give me particulars of a problem known as "The Monkey and the Rope," which was printed in a braille magazine—probably "Progress"—several years ago?

Yours sincerely,

J. E. GUNN.

27 Whitehill Road, Gravesend.

DEAR EDITOR,

Sometimes, on my being introduced to a St. Dunstaner, he says: "You're on propaganda, aren't you?"

While pleading guilty to this charge with a smile, I should be glad if someone could suggest an alternative word, with pleasanter associations than "propaganda," to describe the work of those of us who try and help to "raise the wind" for St. Dunstan's, and makes its varied activities known to the general public.

Yours sincerely,

MARY JAMESON

(Hon. Organiser, South Norwood).

DEAR EDITOR,

I congratulate H. Crabtree on bringing forward the glaring anomalies of the National Health Insurance scheme as it touches ex-Service men. Another anomaly is "Sick Benefit." Never having been N.H. insured until the new Act came into force, I was never entitled to any benefits, but since I have been insured, or rather since the new "Service" came into operation, I have had three nasty accidents. In each case I would have been laid up for several weeks had I been employed outside. In no instance did I receive any benefits. Without any political argument, for I believe the same thing would have happened irrespective of the party in office, it appears that all our attempts at independent security for ourselves and dependants in our advancing years is being taken advantage of. Nobody, for instance, is yet old enough to draw the black coated old-age pension, so the entire contribution has been swallowed up, and the people who did not join, were not N.H. insured, but are now contributing, receive the benefit of retirement pensions that most of us will never be entitled to, whether ex-Service or not. I know that the official answer is that the black-coated workers come automatically into the N.H.S., whereas the others, "self-employed," etc.,

will have to wait ten years for eligibility. This is a farce, as the majority would have had to wait that long anyway. I was just eligible to join by a few months, and would not have been eligible to draw until 1955, so the Government cashed in on the credulity of people who trusted them. I have Sir Kingsley Wood's personal letter, assuring me that the pension claim would be honoured, irrespective of any change of Government, or the fact that I receive total disability pension.

Yours sincerely,

Castle Cary.

A. J. RADFORD.

Canadian News Letter

DEAR EDITOR,

I, William Jeffrey Bond, married Miss Sybil Stopps, of Monk's Risborough, Buckinghamshire, in Ontario, on January 1st, 1949. My wife was connected with St. Dunstan's in that she read to the physiotherapy students at Church Stretton. We were presented with a daughter on March 19th, 1951.

I started my own private physiotherapy practice in this city in February, 1949, and it is running along fine.

Since being in Canada I have met up with Miss McKay; she is a Canadian V.A.D. and taught typing and handicrafts at Stretton. I also meet once a month C. Perkis and C. Carneagy, both St. Dunstaners from the first war. Perkis has a poultry farm at a little town named Preston, near Galt, Ontario, and Carneagy takes life very easily in the city. They both talk often of the St. Dunstan's of the first war. Perkis especially is very independent. He lost his wife about two years ago and now lives with his son. He has given up his poultry farm, but passes the time by taking walks, travelling with the local ice hockey team, and on these occasions plays his trumpet when a goal is scored for his own team.

My social life consists of being a member of the Executive of the Waterlow County Association for the Blind, a member of the War Amputees, and also second vice-president of that Executive. At the end of this month I have the job of examining at the finals of the physiotherapists just finishing at Toronto University.

Please convey my most sincere regards to all my good friends in St. Dunstan's.

WILLIAM JEFFREY BOND.

Galt, Ontario, Canada.

From All Quarters

G. Heeley, of Leeds, has been elected President of the Old Comrades' Association of the 21st King's Royal Rifles for this year, with Lord Swinton as Vice-President.

★ ★ ★

Wilfred Pickles, with Mrs. Pickles, paid a private visit to F. A. Robinson, of Ewell, on June 3rd. The R.A.F. Association arranged for the visit—our St. Dunstaner is a member—and it was a great thrill for him.

★ ★ ★

G. H. Richards, of Manchester, late of the Grenadier Guards, attended a Reunion Dinner and met Col. Gordon Lennox, Colonel of the Regiment, and Lord Derby. This month, in Manchester, they are laying up the colours of the 3rd Batt., the Grenadier Guards, and our St. Dunstaner will be at this function too, at which Princess Elizabeth will be present.

★ ★ ★

C. R. Bulman, and Mrs. Bulman, of Beckenham, were members of the Bridge team winning the Gill Cup (covering the north-west area of Kent); they played eight matches without loss. This is the third time in four years that the team has held the Gill Cup, and Mr. and Mrs. Bulman were in the winning team in 1939, the first year the Cup was presented. They have also played against the Swedish team who recently toured this country.

Grandfathers

W. Oldfield, Brighton; H. E. Hill, Devizes; J. H. Smith, Birmingham.

Births

BOND.—On March 19th, to the wife of William Bond, Ontario, a daughter—Gillian Annette.

HORSFIELD.—On May 28th, to the wife of T. R. Horsfield, of Cambridge, a daughter—Jane Hilary Ann.

HOWSE.—On May 16th, to the wife of F. H. Howse, of Dartford, a son—David John.

POOLE.—On May 24th, to the wife of G. Poole, of Crappenhall, Warrington, a son—George David.

TAYLOR.—On June 5th, to the wife of R. Taylor, of Wolverhampton, a daughter—Yvonne Dianne.

Marriages

COOPER—RATHBONE.—On June 4th, Charles W. W. Cooper, of Worthing, to Mrs. Mary Rathbone.

MATTHEWS—TOWERS.—On May 25th, Norman Matthews, of Wolverhampton, to Miss Norah Towers.

Placements

L. V. Hill, as a gardener's handyman, with the City of London Cemetery, Manor Park; J. A. Simpson, on a centering machine with Messrs. English Electric Co., Ltd., Bradford; W. Pollock, as a labourer with Lord Roberts' Workshops, Belfast.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Flowers, Birmingham, May 24th.

“In Memory”

William John Wood, *Ordnance Factory*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. J. Wood, of Putney. He was sixty-eight.

He lost his sight as a munition worker in the first war, and he came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1919. He trained as a basket-maker and worked at his craft until the last, although he had been in failing health for a long time.

Among the many wreaths at the funeral was one of poppies from Sir Ian. Miss Cecil Wood was present at the Cemetery to represent St. Dunstan's.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Wood and her family.

Private William Thomas West, *Royal Army Medical Corps*

With deep regret we have to record the death of W. T. West, of Ramsgate.

He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in March, 1919, a year after his discharge from the Army, and he trained in boot-repairing. In April, 1946, however, he was forced to give this up owing to his poor health. In recent weeks he had become much worse and he died at his home on May 27th.

He was cremated at Charing, the ashes being taken to Steyning to rest in the family grave. A poppy wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades was taken by Mrs. West to be placed on the grave. St. Dunstaners Millen, Bailey and Pink were present at the cremation ceremony to pay tribute to a very dear friend.

To Mrs. West we extend our deep sympathy in her loss.

“ In Memory ”

Fireman John M. P. Kenny, *Mercantile Marine*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of John Kenny, who had for some time been a semi-permanent resident at West House. He was seventy-three.

Serving in the first war, he was discharged from the Mercantile Marine in February, 1919, and was admitted to St. Dunstan's in July, 1927. He trained in mat-making at home and later went to our Annexe at Brighton for a course in netting. He lived with his sister until her health made it impossible for him to do so, and he came to us at West House.

A poppy wreath from Sir Ian, and wreaths from his Brighton friends, were among the flowers at the funeral.

Our sympathy goes out to his sister.

Private Arthur Bannan, *South Lancashire Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of Arthur Bannan, of Blackpool.

Enlisting on August 5th, 1914, he served until May, 1917, but he did not come to us until many years later—in 1937. He was always interested in the outdoor life and for some time he carried on with a small-holding, but of late years his very poor health had prevented any strenuous work. He had come to Ovingdean for a holiday when he was taken ill and he passed away there on April 25th.

A wreath from the Chairman was sent for the funeral. He was laid to rest in St. Dunstan's plot at Brighton.

Our sympathy goes out to his relatives and to Mr. and Mrs. Beattie, with whom he had lived for many years.

Corporal Wilfred E. Freeman, *Royal Field Artillery*

We record with deep regret the death of Wilfred Freeman, of Brighton. He was fifty-six.

He came to us at the end of 1929, ten years after his discharge from the Army, and he trained in baskets and netting, but his health was not good enough to continue with baskets. Eventually he had to give up work altogether and he was admitted to West House early this year. After a period in hospital he returned to West House where he died on June 4th.

He was buried at Brighton and among the many flowers was a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends.

He leaves a widow and grown-up son, to whom our sympathy is extended.

Private Frederick Hines, *18th Bn. Welch Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of Frederick Hines, who for some years now has been a resident at West House; he was thirty-one years old.

When he came to us in February, 1945, his ill-health prevented any training. Eventually he came to us and spent his last years in the Sick Ward, where he passed away on May 26th.

He leaves a young widow, whom he married after he lost his sight, and to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Lance Corporal Richard J. Vine, *10th West Yorks Regt.*

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of R. J. Vine, of West Ealing.

After his discharge from the Army in August, 1916, he came almost at once to us, where he trained first as a telephone operator, then as a basket-maker. He worked first as a telephonist, went on to baskets, but returned again to telephony, but ill-health had forced him to retire in September, 1950. He continued to go downhill and he was admitted to West House Sick Ward on May 21st, where he died two days later. He bore his long suffering with amazing courage.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to his widow and grown-up family.

He was buried in St. Dunstan's plot at Brighton.

Private Henry Finkle, *Labour Corps*

With deep regret we have to record the death of H. Finkle, of Sunderland.

His service with the Army dated from October, 1912, to May, 1918, but he came to St. Dunstan's for the first time in 1921. He trained as a telephonist, but later went north and took up homecrafts. His health, however, had been far from good and his death occurred on April 19th.

A wreath from Sir Ian was sent for the funeral, which was attended by many St. Dunstan's friends.

He leaves a widow and relatives, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Harry Tomkinson, *2nd South Lancashire Regt.*

With deep regret we record the death of Harry Tomkinson, of Dalston, at the age of fifty-three.

He was discharged from the Service in June, 1919, and came to us immediately. He trained as a telephonist and continued in his post up to a fortnight before his death, when he was taken ill.

At the funeral a wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his family.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 385—VOLUME XXXV

JULY, 1951

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

BLINDNESS presents many handicaps besides the obvious ones met with in reading and moving about. To overcome them, life has to be planned in very considerable detail.

The telephone operator, for example, must think in advance when his roll of shorthand tape is likely to run out. If he could see, this would not worry him, for if his shorthand book was suddenly to become full, he could always pick up a spare piece of paper and make do for an hour or two. The blind man who occupies an executive or administrative post must plan and time his day to fit in with the work that his secretary has to do. If he could see, he could fill in an odd ten minutes or quarter of an hour himself reading papers or writing notes, but, being blind, he may be idle if he does not plan his time to fit in with that of the person who helps him. And all blind people must plan every aspect of their daily routine of getting up and shaving and dressing. If they did not do this, putting tidily in a familiar place each article as it was used, they would not be able to find them the next morning. And every blind craftsman or home worker must keep his tools and materials in the right place so that he can quickly lay his hands on them.

Of course it becomes second nature to plan these details of one's daily life, but nevertheless it adds considerably to the mental strain of living, and for successful accomplishment demands an orderly mind.

Friendship is a tender plant which can only grow out of understanding and common interest, but even this delicate relationship must be thought about and to some extent planned. I do not mean to suggest that you can calculate a friendship in advance or plan to make one, but I do mean that you cannot enjoy the company of your friends, or to do the things with them that are agreeable to both of you, unless you think about them and to some extent arrange them beforehand. It is a handicap to some blind people whom I know not to realise this, or to be too shy to give it a thought and make it part of their way of life. If you can see, you can enter a group freely, taking advantage of the right opportunity to begin a conversation with the person with whom you want to speak. Or you can watch for the conclusion of a rubber of bridge or a game of bowls and join in at the appropriate time, or catch your friend's eye, or be available so that you are brought in and become one of the group. If you enter a club or a pub and you can see, you can stand for a moment or two at the door and look around at the various groups talking, playing or drinking, and make up your mind which to join. If you are blind and enter a room in similar circumstances, you start with the great disadvantage of not knowing who is there, of not being able to enter easily into the company

of the others, and unless you have thought about this matter and developed the art of overcoming your own particular difficulty, you must either be left out altogether or be drawn into a group that is incompatible, unfriendly, awkward or boring.

I cannot pretend to have become very expert at overcoming these difficulties, but a long period of public life in which I have had to meet all kinds of people and as far as possible, mix with them, has taught me some lessons which I pass on for what they are worth.

The most important lesson of all is not to be shy about your blindness or embarrassed by your own difficulties. If you are either of these, then you will most certainly communicate the shyness or the embarrassment to others. The first requisite is to assume that in normal circumstances most people will be glad to see you, to talk to you, and to bring you in as part of their group. This is not always true and depends to some extent upon not taking advantage of any kindness that is shown to you. For if you become a bore or a trouble to the others, if you hold up the activity which they want to undertake, or if you do it in a way that spoils their fun, then the best will in the world will not overcome the reluctance with which they greet your approach. In general, however, most people will welcome you. Blindness of itself is no bar to good conversation.

A cause of difficulty that often presents itself is that of not knowing to whom you are talking. I have found in this connection that the simplest way of dealing with it is to ask a direct question. You will enter a group and someone will say, "Hallo, Joe." Nine times out of ten you will know who it is and conversation will flow freely, but at the tenth time you will be at a loss to know who is speaking to you. If you let that moment pass in the hope that further information will solve the mystery, you will probably be sunk. As often as not you will find conversation drying up or you will make some remark that is inappropriate. The best thing to do is to say immediately, "Who is this?" or "Who is speaking to me?" Even if, in itself, the question causes some embarrassment (and it often does because people are very shy about saying their own names), it will nevertheless clear the air and enable you to adjust yourself to the person you are with. Next I would say, never fail to ask the person you are with to do the thing that you want. By this I do not mean impose any task upon your friend or acquaintance. Sometimes, however, the other person wants to help but does not know how to do it. My advice is to leave him in no doubt but tell him exactly what you want done and the way you want it done. You will find then that a happy and agreeable friendship follows. If it is a question of walking together, tell the person quietly on which side you prefer to walk and whether you wish to hold his or her arm or vice versa. If it is a question of being read to, explain what you want to read and how you want it read. The assumption that you should make is that the person wants to do the job as well as possible and that any awkwardness is caused by lack of knowledge rather than by lack of willingness.

It amounts to this—that blindness is an embarrassing handicap and can become inhibitory of friendship. On the other hand, there is abundant sympathy which is very widespread and if this is properly guided, it will express itself in warm friendship which is enjoyed as much by the blind person as by his friend.

IAN FRASER.

To Ex-R.A.F.

The members of the Sergeants' Mess, Royal Air Force, Martlesham Heath, Suffolk have very kindly offered to give a free week's holiday at their Station to four St. Dunstaners who served in the R.A.F. They suggest a week in October so if you are interested, please drop me a line and I will let you have further particulars.

A. MACKAY,
Welfare Superintendent.

Bowls

A well-known bowler who was recently in Australia has told us of the skill of Australian blind men at bowls and suggests that St. Dunstaners might also take up this sport.

Sir Ian Fraser's feeling is that if a St. Dunstaner took up bowling in his district, he could derive a great deal of pleasure from the companionship of other bowlers even although, because of his blindness, he could not take part competitively in the games.

London Club Notes

The London Club will close for the August holiday after the whist drive on Tuesday, 31st July, and will re-open on Saturday, September 1st, *except* for the three Saturdays, August 11th, 18th and 25th, when the club will open from 2 p.m. until 10 p.m. for Bridge, Dominoes and Whist. Tea and cakes will be served.

We hope that all who have had their holidays have had a good time, and that all those who are looking forward to one will have good weather and a happy time.

P. ASHTON.

Indoor Section

The summer is making itself apparent in the Club. A few less are there in the evenings and as they return, the sun is shown on their faces and tales are told of wonderful times on holiday. Despite this, lively times are still had with the whist, dominoes and bridge. Darts are now of course less active, but the autumn will see the arrows flying again. The preliminary rounds of the Sir Arthur Pearson Trophy competitions are going ahead and in some cases the finalists for Brighton are already decided.

Thirty ladies—wives and escorts of London St. Dunstaners—coached away on June 28th for Eastbourne. They had a lovely day and the return twelve hours later at once made the Club a scene of laughter and fun. It was, however, ozone that had raised them to this pitch, and all were loud in praise of the day.

It is good to say that Charlie Walker, chairman of the Indoor Sub-Committee, is regaining his old self, after gastro enteritis, and will no doubt be in full harness by the opening of the autumn session.

JOHN A. MUDGE.

Outdoor Section

Although the Club will be closed for August, boats will be available on the lake at Regent's Park, and swimming at the Seymour Baths for those who would like to "have a go." Tickets from Mr. Dawkins.

Congratulations to C. Williamson who competed with the Surrey Walking Club and completed the 20 mile course at Poole, Dorset, in 3 hours, 18 mins., being 10th of 24. Good show, Charles!

Bridge

On June 2nd, twenty members of the Bridge Club paid a visit to the headquarters

of the London County Contract Bridge Association. A very pleasant afternoon was spent playing against all the leading British international players. We played five pairs, North—South, and five pairs, East—West. The top pair North—South was H. Gover and P. Nuyens, while the top pair East—West was L. Douglas and A. Wiltshire.

Our fixture on June 16th with Sperry's was a success, the club winning by 2,000, but we lost our fixture with John Waller's team by 2,400.

H. GOVER.

Retirement Pensions

From September 1st the standard rate of Retirement Pension for men of 70 and women of 65 will be increased from 26s. to 30s., and from October 1st the increase will also apply to men who, on that date, are between the ages of 65 and 70 and women between 60 and 65. There will also be an increase from 16s. to 20s. in the Retirement Pension payable to a wife by reason of her husband's insurance.

If any St. Dunstaner is receiving a Retirement Pension and is 70 or over (men) and 65 or over (women) they should send or take their Order Book to the Local National Insurance Office in the following order:—

England and Scotland < IF YOU LIVE IN > Wales
 between

If your surname begins with letters	A-C	Fri. 20 July & Wed. 25 July	A-D
	D-H	Fri. 27 July & Wed. 1 Aug.	E-I
	I-N	Fri. 3 Aug. & Wed. 8 Aug.	J-L
	O-S	Fri. 10 Aug. & Wed. 15 Aug.	M-R
	T-Z	Fri. 17 Aug. & Wed. 22 Aug.	S-Z

Men between 65 and 70, and women between 60 and 65 should not do anything at present, but should wait for a further notice in the REVIEW.

Men who became 65 and women who become 60 after October 1st will not be entitled to the increase and must wait until they are 70 (men) and 65 (women) before they will get the extra amount.

Ovingdean Sports

St. Dunstan's Sports are taking place at Ovingdean on Saturday, July 21st, when a good turnout is expected, and Sir Neville and Lady Pearson will be present. Full report in the next "Review."

Ban on Football Broadcasts

In the House of Commons on July 16th, Sir Ian Fraser raised the question of the Football League's ban on broadcasts of Saturday matches.

Mr. Charles Hobson, Assistant Postmaster General, informed the House that a meeting of the Football League and the B.B.C. was being called by the Football Association to discuss the ban. The Government would deplore a failure to reach agreement, the consequences of which would deprive large numbers of people, particularly the sick and disabled, of enjoying what they have been in the habit of doing—listening to broadcasts of football matches.

Speaking at a rally of the British Legion at Banbury on July 1st, Sir Ian Fraser said: "Let the bed-ridden, the halt and the blind hear their favourite football match by their fireside, and let those who can walk and see, go to the field."

The football managers depended on their gate money, but the unfortunate depended on the pleasure at home.

The B.B.C. could easily make up for the lost gate money by calling attention to matches in advance. The Corporation were squeamish about advertising, but if their conscience did not allow them to advertise, they could call this a public service. Here was the basis of a bargain fair to both sides and beneficial to all.

In a letter to Sir Ian from the National Federation of Football Supporters' Clubs, Mr. Leslie W. Davis, the General Secretary, writes:

"I do assure you, sir, and all the grand members of St. Dunstan's, men and women, that the Federation is giving its full weight in the attempts that are being made to ensure that the ban on football broadcasts shall be withdrawn. May I convey to all your branches our deepest sympathy that they should have been given so much anxiety in a matter which has caused world-wide resentment."

Charles Durkin, of Orpington, writes:—

"The belief that the broadcasting of the second half of any given football match interferes with the attendance at other matches is to my mind a fallacy. Whether the weather is wet or fine, the supporters of the teams will go to football matches, and in many cases travel many miles to do so. I can go farther than that and say that many people

support two clubs so that they can go to a match each week. They will say most definitely that a broadcast of a match is nothing nearly as good as being present at the actual match.

"Turning to the suggestion of recording a broadcast of the second half of a match and then broadcasting it after the match has finished, I would point out that the full time results are published in the evening papers within a few minutes of the game being completed. Even the wireless has a programme at 5.30 p.m. called 'Sports Report,' wherein all the main results are given.

"What is going to be the use of broadcasting a recorded account of part of a match after listeners already know the result?

George Fallowfield writes:

"May I as a supporter and not a listener voice my opinion? The keen follower of any sport is really only interested in the activities of his own club. A man in London isn't sitting at home to listen to a match between, say, Everton and Newcastle when he can go and see a London club, and a man in Birmingham isn't interested in a game between Arsenal and Pompey. This is further proved by the thousands who travel from one end of the country to the other to cheer their own club.

"If there is any decrease in the attendance at any league matches, and I doubt it, then it's up to the F.A. and the league to get busy and instead of paying £25,000 transfer fees for players who only do pretty things, spend the money on improved accommodation, get busy with floodlighting and have evening games, and challenge the speedways and greyhound racing."

Widows' Scheme

In the February issue of the "Review," Sir Ian Fraser mentioned a new scheme to benefit the widow of a St. Dunstaner when he dies. This is an insurance scheme to which both St. Dunstan's and the St. Dunstaner contribute and will ensure the sum of £500 being available to the widow. Many St. Dunstaners have applied but there is still time to enter and we strongly urge all married St. Dunstaners who are under the age of 55 who have not yet done so to consider the Scheme and enter it. Your Welfare or Technical Visitor will be able to give you full information or you can write to the Chief Accountant at 191, Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

Manchester Club

Report for year ending June, 1951

The past twelve months have given us many pleasant times, but we should like to see more young St. Dunstaners amongst us.

We wonder if we arranged our meeting for Saturday afternoon we could count on their support?

In August we took our summer outing at Chester and much enjoyed our trip by motor launch up the Dee, and the visit to places of interest. We hope to return this summer.

November was quite a busy month; Mrs. Lang organised a Hot Pot Supper at the "Swan with Two Necks" and we had an enjoyable evening discovering talent in our ranks.

The highlight was, of course, our visit to the Blackpool Home on Armistice Day. Matron Vaughan Davies as usual gave us a wonderful time and wonderful food. We much appreciated meeting the Liverpool Club there. On our way we were entertained to "elevenses" by our St. Dunstaner, T. Woods, who keeps the Hillmore Café at Euxton.

We sent up a team to Brighton to the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial competitions, and though we did not bring home the cup, our Sports Organiser, Mrs. Eaton, assured us that Maxi and Jack Greaves gave the winners something to think about.

Our Christmas Party at the Clarence Café was followed by a visit to the pantomime. A most enjoyable evening was spent at the Club when Mr. Holland brought his gramophone and recording machine—it was great fun to hear ourselves as others hear us.

In April our sparring partners from the Liverpool Club joined us for a Hot Pot Supper at the "Swan with Two Necks"; we enjoyed this evening and hope to meet them on their own ground shortly.

The Manchester Club will be pleased to welcome any St. Dunstaner who finds himself in the Manchester area.

Test Results

Preliminary.—J. Robson, A. Robinson.

Writing.—F. Lipscombe, R. Mendham, J. Fraser.

Typing.—F. Nunn, F. Beard, J. P. Dixon, R. Preece, L. Price.

Advanced.—E. Gaigre.

Lord Normanby's Reunion

On July 9th, Lord Normanby invited to a dinner party at the Café Royal, London, those St. Dunstaners who had been prisoners of war with him in Germany, and fourteen guests, including three from Scotland, and their escorts enjoyed a most happy reunion. The Marquess of Normanby introduced the Marchioness, and Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were also present. It was three years since most of the ex-p.o.w.'s had met and they came from the West Country, from East Anglia, the Midlands, Scotland, and London.

In an after-dinner speech, Lord Normanby welcomed his guests, and expressed the thanks of Lady Normanby and himself for the wedding gift which his "lads" had made to them. It was a great pleasure to them all to be together once again. Jimmy Legge, of Bristol, in an excellent speech, thanked Lord Normanby for giving them the opportunity of meeting once again, and wished their hosts long life and great happiness. This was seconded by J. Rogers, of Newington House, and greeted with pleasure and applause by the company.

Sir Ian paid warm tribute to the fine work which Lord Normanby had done for his p.o.w.'s in Germany. None knew better than they how much they owed to him. Sir Ian wished Lord and Lady Normanby many years of deserved happiness, and on that note the guests rose and the rest of the evening was devoted to reminiscences. It was a night long to be remembered.

Physiotherapist Attends Wimbledon Players

Douglas Calder, whom many St. Dunstaners will remember at Church Stretton (he was the first blinded serviceman of the last war to qualify as a physiotherapist), attended players at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships again this year. Douglas was there in a similar capacity last year and the American women tennis stars had particularly asked that he should attend them again this year.

It is of interest to note that Miss Doris Hart, who won the triple crown by her success in the women's singles, the mixed doubles and the women's doubles, was severely handicapped by a knee infection when she was a child and at one time it was feared that she would never walk. In 1949 she was unable to take part in the championships because of eye trouble.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Thank you very much for your courtesy in sending me the copies the of the "Review" in which you publish the letters from Bert Gaffney and George Crook.

Perhaps you would spare me a little of your valuable space to say how very much I appreciate the thought which prompted them both to write, and thank them sincerely. May I steal a little more to add that one of my great pleasures is to realise that my job makes it possible for me to fill the gap—as adequately as I can—between the great sporting events of the day and so many St. Dunstaners. After all they have given to their country far more than I can ever hope to. I hope I may long be privileged to help.

Yours sincerely,

London, N.W.1. RAYMOND GLENDENNING

DEAR EDITOR,

I should like to verify Mr. Crabtree's statement of the deduction by the Ministry of National Insurance in deducting 10s. from his sick pay because he is unfortunate enough to be a disabled pensioner. The same thing would apply if he was out of employment. His benefit instead of being £2 2s. 0d. would be £1 12s. 0d.

All we see nowadays is old age pensioners who say they cannot live on their allowance, and anything done is done for them every time. I myself will be one next year, but I shall always support anyone who is prepared to help a man whose only crime was being loyal to his country.

Yours sincerely,

Grimsby.

W. A. ROBINSON.

DEAR EDITOR,

May I give a little time-saving advice (if space permits) to Mr. Oriel and others who use the *Radio Times*. There is no need to read all the detail you do not require. A large number of blind people, not St. Dunstaners, like to know who are the pianists, organists, artistes and speakers in the various programmes. Most people know the regular features, so there is no need to read the items in the Thursday symphony if you really want to listen to the Light Programme, or "Ray's a Laugh." Just think what the regular feature for the day is, then skip the regulars you do not want, and take full advantage of the space before the News and Radio News Reel, etc. Get the habit of looking for the "Time" sign. For instance, with a long symphony

or prom., with items, names, etc. there will be approximately six lines, so slip to the seventh for the next time sign. It would be a blessing for the inexperienced to just have a marginal time sign on the left hand, but he will find that he also will soon be looking to see who is on Music Hall, etc., like the others, and the *Radio Times* will increase his braille speed and touch if he learns to feel for what he wants, and skips everything else.

Yours sincerely,

Castle Cary.

A. J. RADFORD.

From All Quarters

Robert Bridger has won the Festival of Britain National Trophy for Elocution. He was the only blind competitor. Well done, Bob!

★ ★ ★

Margaret Stanway won two prizes, a first and a fourth, in the North West Gas Board's Festival Fare cookery competition at Morecambe. There were 150 entries.

★ ★ ★

At the same time, not so very far away, the work of another girl St. Dunstaner was attracting much attention. Maureen V. Lees, of Birkenhead, was exhibiting handicraft work including rugs, bath mats, curtains, and cot blankets, in the Ministry of Pensions' first regional exhibition in Manchester by North West disabled pensioners.

★ ★ ★

John Straughton, of Workington, on June 6th, celebrated his 30 years' service with the United Steel Company (Cumberland Group) as telephonist.

Tribute was paid to him in the "Sunday Graphic," the "Lancashire Evening Post," and the "Cumberland Evening News," as well as the firm's "Bulletin," which said, "his cheerfulness and brave spirits make him a great favourite and he is one of our most respected men. The grandest fellow in the office."

Flying St. Dunstaners

St. Dunstan's history was made on May 9th when four St. Dunstaners, Messrs. A. E. Baldwin, H. Costigan, J. McFarlane and A. Wiltshire, flew to Jersey to take part, with prominent film stars, in the Island's Liberation Fête, the proceeds of which were to be given to St. Dunstan's.

The Festival of Britain

I visited the South Bank to report for St. Dunstaners on the Festival Exhibition with considerable misgiving. An exhibition of this kind is something upon which everyone must form his own opinion. However, with a notebook, pencil and an otherwise open mind, I went.

I should like to be able to say, "This is a grand show. No St. Dunstaner should miss it," but I am not going to. Personally, I feel that the exhibition is below standard. On the other hand, a party of St. Dunstaners went from Ovingdean and thoroughly enjoyed their day. Of course the fact that they were having a day off from training may have contributed something to their enjoyment, but whatever the reason, I am glad that their impressions are given on another page, so that other St. Dunstaners may have a fair picture of the whole thing.

The theme of the Festival is "The Land and the People," and each of the seven pavilions is concerned with some aspect of this development. The first two, "The Land of Britain" and "The Natural Scene," show something of what we know about our island itself. Then, following the order suggested by the guide-book, we are shown what we have made of it—"The Country," "Minerals," "Power and Production," "Sea and Ships" and "Transport and Communications." All these sections are in what are described as the Upstream Circuit. (Remember that the Exhibition is on the Bank of the River Thames—this is one of its most delightful features, especially if the weather is kind.)

The Downstream Circuit is illustrated by sections devoted to "Homes and Gardens," "New Schools," "Health," "Sport," "Seaside," with a pavilion, "The Lion and the Unicorn," intended to show the diversity of our national character. My own recollection here is of spoken excerpts from Shakespearean plays, competing with voices at the end of the same gallery announcing "what they said and how they said it," while at the same time downstairs Alice in Wonderland monotonously intoned to the White Knight that "you are wonderful. . ." "you are wonderful. . ." "you are wonderful" . . . Diversity certainly—but not all at once!

Then there was the Dome of Discovery, the *pièce de résistance*, so to speak, but which I explored as soon as I arrived, determined

to see it before I was tired, weary and foot-sore. My personal discovery was that there were far too many stairs.

The Dome has been called one of the most remarkable buildings in the world. It is like an immense aluminium-framed umbrella built on concrete pylons, each like the rudder of the ship. In the Dome are eight sections, "The Land," "The Sea," "Polar," "The Earth," "The Sky," "Outer Space," "The Living World," and "The Physical World." These sections are very interesting, telling the story of achievement in all these fields; they are well captioned too. But I must confess that much of the modern scientific material was far above my head.

Of the other sections, I liked "Transport and Communications," with its exhibits of ancient and modern locomotives, and its beautifully modern aircraft and ships. I liked "The Natural Scene," showing how our land has taken its shape, and the animals and plants which occupy it. I was depressed, however, in this room by some unearthly music which all the time accompanied a film called "Earth in Labour."

Noise, I found, was one of the features of the Exhibition. I liked the loud murmur of the fountains by the Embankment in which torches spouted flames; I did not like the sudden roar of trains passing to and from Waterloo Station, or the "popular" music coming through the amplifiers. As I heard one visitor remark, "If only the noise-makers would go on strike!"

I thought that the sections could have been marked more clearly. It is easy to say "Follow this Circuit, or that," but not everyone has a guide and my experience was that one could be easily lost—not for long, certainly, but long enough to make walking around rather tiring. But on the other hand I am glad to report that there are many restaurants, cafés and cloakrooms, and gaily coloured seats and benches everywhere.

To sum up, I felt that the Exhibition lacked life and that the exhibits were not inspired; that too much was left unexplained.

In my opinion, the Sports Section, of which so much could have been made, was a particularly dull affair, while as for "Seaside," the only sign of life here was a model of a man asleep in a deck chair, whose chest heaved up and down as he dozed!

No, I am sorry, but I think Britain could have done better than this. E. W.

Brighton Notes

Ovingdean

Without a doubt the most interesting event for the trainees at Ovingdean during June was the visit to the Festival of Britain South Bank Exhibition. The trip was confined to trainees and staff escorts and on Tuesday, 26th June, two Southdown coaches left Ovingdean shortly after 8 a.m. on that lovely sunny day on the South Coast to proceed to London.

The journey was comfortable but to our dismay, the further we left Brighton behind so the weather became more overcast until, when we reached the South Bank Exhibition site, there was already a light rain falling.

Thanks to the special arrangements made by the police for the parking of our buses, we were able to use them as our headquarters, returning to them for lunch.

At lunch-time you can imagine the chatter! It seemed most of the party had visited the Dome of Discovery and had been interested by the exhibits. Those with the more technical turn of mind, were naturally more impressed than others and there was much discussion on the "Ship Section," correct in every detail from electric winches and windlasses, stockless anchors weighing several tons and capable of holding the largest vessel safely at anchor under average weather conditions. This and "The Bridge of a Modern Vessel" particularly interested some of the ex-Navy fellows in the party. The Sports Section (showing cricket bats and balls being made), the Polar Section designed to re-create the conditions there, and, of course the Transport Section, where those interested in machinery found much to attract them in the display of the Merlin, Rolls Royce and other aero-engines—all these are just a few of the many different sections we visited.

The morning went by all too quickly and after refreshment—so welcome—and so good—we returned, refreshed, to track down those exhibits we had missed during the morning. The rain had by this time increased to a steady downpour!

Many of us made our way to the "Royal Mint" where the special Festival Five-Shilling Pieces were being made. At the time we were there, the machine was turning out the coins at the rate of one hundred a minute—and they were being sold almost as rapidly!

Four o'clock came, the time we had to embark on to our coaches, and we set off back home. There was a welcome halt for tea on the way back and we reached Ovingdean, tired and weary but with a day behind us we will long remember.

Whilst several of the trainees had been a little sceptical about going to the Exhibition, they all said on their return how much satisfaction and enjoyment they had got out of the visit.

Having said so much on that one subject, we are not going to have space for much other news this month, but there has been one addition to Ovingdean—not to be compared with anything on show at the South Bank, of course,—but which nevertheless has created much interest here. It is our "Mechanical Horse," a gift from Mr. Meeson of Loughton! It is electrically controlled with switches enabling it to give the movements of a canter, trot and gallop. In fact the "rider" is said to get precisely the same amount of exercise that would be obtained from riding a horse. No protests from horse lovers please—we know all about the pleasures of the saddle! It seems our robot produces all the same aches after a while in the saddle and if he can never win a race, he can certainly give anyone a fine shaking up—so good for the liver! He is becoming so popular that at last the rifle range has a serious rival. He is "stabled" in the Gynasium—so come on you holiday-makers! Our warmest thanks to Mr. Meeson for his generosity which is already appreciated by many St. Dunstaners.

Forthcoming Events

We shall be pleased to welcome local St. Dunstaners to the following events at Ovingdean during July and August:—

July 26th, Concert.—St. Dunstan's trainees and staff are presenting a Concert at Ovingdean, the proceeds of which will be sent to the "H.M.S. Affray Fund." Admission will be by programme priced 1s. obtainable in advance from Miss Guilbert, Ovingdean.

Friday, August, 3rd.—Dance from 8 to 10 p.m. *Saturday, 4th.*—Whist and Domino Tournament, 7.45 p.m. *Sunday, 5th.*—Concert in Ovingdean Lounge, 8 p.m. *Monday, 6th.*—Gala Dance, 8 to 11 p.m.

West House

Our "red letter" day this month was June 20th, when the majority of West House men, joined by holiday men from Ovingdean

and St. Dunstaners living locally, went on the annual summer outing arranged by the Brighton and Hove Grocers' Association.

Ten coaches lined up to take the party—numbering, with escorts and members of the Association, more than three hundred—to Maidstone. The return journey was made via Tunbridge Wells, where the historic Pump Room was placed at the party's disposal.

Mr. Finlay, secretary of the Brighton Association, who took over his duties only this year, worked very hard to ensure the success of the outing.

On June 2nd the Toc H Civilian Blind came to play dominoes, and later in the month, eight of our men were invited to play a return tournament at the Toc H Club.

We joined with Ovingdean for the race meetings at Lewes and Brighton, and there have been several afternoon drives during the month.

On the warm, sunny days, we have taken full advantage of the garden, and the terrace outside the sick ward has been a very popular sun-trap—the french windows enabling the bed cases to be wheeled out to enjoy the summer weather.

Miss N. Gough

Miss N. Gough, one of our Welfare Visitors in the Midlands since 1924, is retiring at the end of July on reaching the age limit observed by St. Dunstan's. Miss Gough has been associated with St. Dunstan's since 1918 and her many friends will join in wishing her the very best of health and happiness in her retirement. We are losing an old friend who has given years of devoted and loyal service to St. Dunstaners and their families living in the Midlands. We sincerely hope, however, that we will have the pleasure of Miss Gough's company at the Birmingham Reunion for many years to come.

Several of Miss Gough's men have already suggested to me that they would like to make her a little presentation. I shall be very happy to act as Honorary Treasurer if contributions are sent to me at Headquarters.

Mrs. E. M. King, who is already covering part of the Midland area, will take over Miss Gough's men on August 1st. We extend to her our very best wishes in this new appointment.

A. MACKAY,
Welfare Superintendent.

St. Dunstan's (South Africa) Review

We extend a very warm welcome to "St. Dunstan's (S.A.) Review," the first number of which has just reached us. It will be issued quarterly, and our old friend, Jimmy Ellis, is part editor. It is hoped that South African St. Dunstaners will respond to the invitation to send along contributions and thus make the new "Review" truly representative.

From this first number we learn that one of the most coveted honours available to blind physiotherapists, the Myrtle Vaughan Cowell Prize, for 1950 has been awarded to John Verster, of Somerset West, who after qualifying in England returned to South Africa in 1948. Among arrivals from Britain are Bill and Mrs. Megson, en route for Rhodesia for a long holiday; Roy and Mrs. French, who after qualifying as a physiotherapist has taken up an appointment at the hospital in Krugersdorp, and "Pollie" (J. M.) Botha, who is settling down happily as physiotherapist at the Germiston Hospital. A Cape Town Reunion on February 1st to meet Bill Muller and his family, on holiday there, brought together Mr. and Mrs. Wilf. Helm, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Ellis, Miss Stuart William, Mrs. Swan and Mrs. Fletcher. The absence of Mrs. Chadwick Bates, through indisposition, was keenly regretted. The Reunion was at "The Round House" and "Mine Host" none other than our own Bill Riley.

From the list of South African St. Dunstaners given at the end of the magazine, it was interesting to find a stonemason and wood-turner (L. A. Higgo), a wholesale merchant (G. J. Kavonic), a sock maker (W. Meaker), a University lecturer (Ken McIntyre), and a cartage contractor (W. J. Van der Merwe), among the physiotherapists, shopkeepers, telephonists and basket-makers, but it was with regret that we noticed that F. Ashworth, of Johannesburg, E. Bass, of Sea Point, E. Denny, of Pretoria, F. Kayne, of Durban, and H. H. Young (Krugersdorp) were listed as "invalids." Our very good wishes go out to all our friends in South Africa. We look forward to having more news through our South African namesake.

Grandfather
G. Power, Filton, Bristol.

Blackpool Notes

At last—after eleven years of waiting—the Blackpool Home can claim “Our Grocers’ Outing.” It took place on Wednesday, June 20th, the same day as the Grocers’ Outing in Brighton. It was a wonderful day. Leaving the Home at 9.30 we went to the Lakes, calling en route at the Royal Hotel, Bolton-le-Sands, for coffee. As we left the Hotel a coach load of Boer War veterans arrived—medals clanging. We were proud to introduce a Boer War veteran of our own—H. Chadwick of St. Helen’s. We had an excellent lunch at the Chestnut Tree Cafe, then went down the hill to Lake Windermere. This time we reversed the trip, going from Bowness to Ambleside. To Coniston and on to Green-odd, then all aboard for the Royal Hotel. The singing greatly improved after the visit to the Royal.

Mr. Bayley organised the outing, ably assisted by “Conductor Taylor” and Mr. Doxey, but we were told that the really hard work—that of raising funds—had been done by the *ladies*.

It was such a great success that we were assured that it would not be the last. Our thoughts went over the air to the Brighton party but as we did not know where they were having meals we could not send them more tangible greetings.

On June 1st, Messrs. Woods, of Seagull Transport, lent us two coaches and we were pleased to invite all St. Dunstaners living in Blackpool, to join us on an outing. We were able also to invite two BLESMA men and two miners who acted as excellent escorts. We went to the Lakes.

After further outings the month ended with a visit to Haydock Park races where little money was won but experience gained.

S. E.

Presented to Princess Elizabeth

George H. Richards of Manchester, late of the Grenadier Guards, was presented to H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth when she visited Manchester on the laying-up of the Colours of the 3rd Battalion of the Regiment on June 21st. George writes: “The Princess asked me what battalion I had served with and when I was blinded. She was so friendly and then asked what work I had taken up. I told her I had trained at St. Dunstan’s and had worked as

a telephone operator with the same firm for thirty years.

News from Australia

We were delighted to have a letter from Alec Craigie after many years. Alec says that he is unable to use the typewriter these days as his finger sinews are troublesome. He writes:

“You may remember Andy Davidson, my West Australian cobbler who was with us in the flat at Primrose Hill—well, the Gosnells, Andy and the Craigies spent last Christmas together. Starting down at 1 o’clock we finished at 4.30 a.m.! What with eating, drinking, and chatting over London and St. Dunstan’s we had a glorious day. All the old St. D’s staff were recalled time and time again. It was like the old Inner Circle days to have a meal like this.

“It pleased me very much when I met the McConnells in Perth on their way to England. I’m afraid that when I am in Perth I don’t see many of the old St. Dunstaners, for outside Billy James and myself, these old stagers don’t seem to congregate these days. But I still feel that I *am* a St. Dunstaner and want to remain so.

“My greetings to all St. Dunstaners and to any member of the staff who may remember me.”

From Mr. George White

I wish to thank all those St. Dunstaner friends and my colleagues on the staff who have so generously contributed towards the fund for my retirement presentation gift. I suggested both these amounts be combined in order to enable me to obtain a present which would provide me with many happy hours (and, I hope, years) of pleasure, and I am happy to have been able to obtain a television set. I am also very grateful for the many kind letters I have received from my St. Dunstaner basket-making friends. This is a very great source of pleasure and will provide me with happy memories for the rest of my years.

GEO. ED. WHITE.

Silver Weddings

Mrs. and Mrs. W. Clamp, Bletchley, September 10th, 1947 (notice only now received); Mr. and Mrs. W. Rickaby, Battersea, May 22nd.

Homework

Numbers of my St. Dunstaners pals have told me that they often did a bit of sloshing about at home. After experimenting, I am half inclined to think that it is a "bit," but I am fully prepared to agree that it is a washy job. A vacancy occurred in my home recently. I applied for the job and got it. An egg was left for my breakfast, with instructions for poaching it. I broke the shell professionally, tipped the contents into a half-filled saucepan, and in ten minutes was eating a curd of rainbow-hued bubbles. My first washing-up bore traces of the previous meal—that was a clear water effort. Dinner crocks had a soapy scrub and I set the plate-rack in the sun to dry. At supper the food had a "sunlight" flavour. In the butcher's shop I felt in the same category as the newly-wed lady who asked to be supplied with a joint to match a blue-and-white dinner service. A neighbour's dog stropped his teeth on most of what I bought. Cooking a cabbage beat me. It was a small, cannon-ball variety; in the pot it looked like a field with its back up. The more I prodded the taller it grew. I put a flat-iron on it and slipped the pot lid over. Tea order was—water boiling by five o'clock. My daughter arrived to find the kettle's spout and handle melted from their setting—and no water. She surveyed the relic dismally, and said "What use is it now?" I suggested that she put it amongst the sideshows at a garden fete as an old Water 'Otter. She cooled this idea with heat. Would experienced St. Dunstaners collaborate in producing a "Cook and wash-up" home work help? Don't ask me to contribute.

W. E. BROOKES.

Reunions

Everyone was delighted to welcome Sir Neville Pearson at the Birmingham Reunion on June 13th, and nearly fifty St. Dunstaners and their escorts made this a particularly happy gathering.

On July 4th it was the Brighton meeting, and Sir Ian and Lady Fraser came on to the Reunion after a visit to Ovingdean and West House. They talked with many old friends who were present, and Sir Ian, in a speech, welcomed St. Dunstaners and staff, past and present, and expressed thanks to the towns of Brighton and Hove and many societies and individuals who gave most valuable services to St. Dunstan's.

Births

DANIEL.—On June 18th, to the wife of Norman Daniel, of Burnham-on-Sea, a son—Stephen.

GRIMES.—On May 31st, to the wife of D. Grimes, of Eastbourne, a daughter—Susan Gillian.

LIPSCOMBE.—On June 2nd, to the wife of F. T. Lipscombe, of Exeter, a daughter.

McNAMARA.—On June 30th, to the wife of S. McNamara, of Dublin, a son.

MCGOOHAN.—On June 21st, to the wife of D. McGoohan, of Watford, a son—Michael John.

OSBOURNE.—On November 25th, to the wife of R. H. Osbourne, of Brighton, a son—Keith Joseph. (A second grandchild for Joe Walch.)

SHONFIELD.—On July 7th, to the wife of J. Shonfield, of Reading, a daughter—Jacqueline.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

LEYLAND.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Leyland, of Newton-le-Willows, whose son has died in Trieste while serving with the South Lancashire Regiment. He was twenty years of age.

RANDALL.—To T. Randall, of Hove, whose wife died in hospital on July 7th.

Young St. Dunstaners

Valerie White, Stalybridge, has won a scholarship to enter the County Grammar School, Hyde.

Brian Appleby, Luton, late of the Irish Guards, is now a member of the police force and is stationed at Southend-on-Sea.

Brian Francis (Morley) has passed the examination of Dewsbury Technical College with four 1st Class awards.

Marriages

Alfred Scrimgour, Middlesbrough, on June 9th, to Miss Beryl Hardey.

Bob Hotson, Brough, on June 30th.

Pamela Crabtree, of Leeds, on June 27th, to Fleet Officer D. W. Kirkby, at Kuala Lumpur, Malaya.

On June 9th, Mary Dembensi, to Charles Herrington.

Albert Lionel Hicks, Palmers Green, on June 9th, to Miss Audrey Wilson, and on June 23rd, Elsie Hicks to Douglas Walton.

The son of J. P. Dixon, of Bolton, was married on June 16th.

"In Memory"

Private George Willie Francis, 17th West Yorkshire Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of G. W. Francis, of Morley, Leeds.

Serving from April, 1915, he came to us after he had been wounded in France in May, 1916. He trained as a basketmaker and in spite of ill-health over a number of years, was always keenly interested in his work. He had not been a fit man for some time before his death; he was discharged from hospital but died at his home a few weeks later.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers at the funeral. Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and children.

Corporal John Thompson, Welch Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of one of our West House men, J. Thompson.

He served with his regiment from September, 1914, until December, 1918. He was then badly wounded, his sight having been damaged and his leg amputated, but it was not until 1948 that he came to us, and his health then prevented any serious training. Upon the death of the friend who had cared for him, he came to Ovingdean, and later, West House. He died in hospital on May 28th.

A poppy wreath from the Chairman was among the flowers. He was buried in St. Dunstan's plot at Brighton.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his relatives.

Lance Corporal John McLean Colley, Royal Scots Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. M. Colley, of Luton. He was sixty-two.

Upon his discharge from the Army in 1916 he came to St. Dunstan's and trained as a physiotherapist but he had retired from his profession for some years now. His health had deteriorated rapidly during the last two years, and he died on June 23rd.

There was a poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades among the flowers at the funeral.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family, to whom our deep sympathy is offered.

Private Robert Young, 15th Highland Light Infantry

With deep regret we record the death of Robert Young, of Glasgow, which occurred at West House on May 19th.

Enlisting in November, 1914, he saw service until June, 1918, coming to us a year later. He then trained as a boot repairer, but for a great number of years he had been in very poor health and was forced to lead a very quiet life. He had been on an extended stay at West House and arrangements had actually been made for his return home when he passed away suddenly.

He was buried in St. Dunstan's plot at Brighton and a poppy wreath from Sir Ian was among the flowers.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his relatives and to Mrs. Harvey, who had cared for him for a long time.

Private Patrick Collins, Royal Irish Rifles

It is with deep regret that we record the death of P. Collins, of Skibbereen, Ireland.

He served with his regiment from November 3rd, 1915, until March 29th, 1918, but did not come under our care until December, 1939, when his poor health made it impossible for him to undertake any heavy work. He died on June 10th, after a long illness.

There were many wreaths at the funeral, among them one from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades. We offer our deep sympathy to his family.

Private Harry Tomkinson, 2nd South Lancashire Regiment

Harry Tomkinson, whose death was reported last month, served from August, 1914, and was wounded in August, 1918, at Armentieres. In addition to his blindness, his right arm was also disabled. He came to us immediately upon his discharge from the Army.

F. Melligan, 116th Canadian

L. S. Hitchcock, 49th Canadian

We have heard with deep regret of the death of two of our Canadians.

F. Melligan was wounded near Cambrai and came to us first in 1918 and again in 1924, when he was in England. He trained as a basket maker.

L. S. Hitchcock was also wounded at Cambrai and left us in 1919, after training as a poultry-farmer.

Our deep sympathy is extended to their relatives.

Mrs. Vine wishes to express her sincere thanks to Matron Pain and Matron Avison and all at West House and at Ovingdean for their great kindness in her loss.

* * *

As in past years there will be no "Review" for the month of August.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 386—VOLUME XXXV

SEPTEMBER, 1951

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

AT the end of the Christmas Term, Miss Dorothy Pain, O.B.E., retires from her office as Matron of St. Dunstan's, having reached retiring age. This will be a sad parting so far as men and staff at Brighton are concerned, and those at Headquarters who visit Brighton from time to time will also feel they have lost a familiar figure. Miss Pain will not, however, be leaving St. Dunstaners for ever, for after her long association and having regard to the many friends she has made and to her own affection for them, I know that whatever she does in the future she will always keep in touch with us and be welcome wherever we are gathered together. Moreover, during the next two years, the Council of St. Dunstan's have arranged that Miss Pain will continue her association with us in a manner which will be congenial to her, advantageous to our organisation and agreeable to St. Dunstaners. After an extended holiday lasting some few months, Miss Pain intends to visit many St. Dunstaners in the United Kingdom and attend a large number of our reunions during 1952, where she will be a welcome guest. In the autumn of next year she will make an official visit on our behalf to St. Dunstaners overseas, going to Canada, New Zealand and Australia to see individual St. Dunstaners in their homes and meet our various groups in these countries. Thus her great experience and warm personality will still make its unrivalled contribution to the well-being of St. Dunstaners whose happiness is so near to her heart.

It was in 1915 that Miss Pain came to St. Dunstan's to be the head of our Braille School, bringing with her expert knowledge of braille which she had learned as a voluntary worker at the National Library for the Blind, as well as considerable executive and administrative gifts. Many older St. Dunstaners will remember this young and attractive head of our Braille Room during the years of the war and after, and I myself learnt my braille under her direction and to some extent by her personal teaching.

Her war work over, Miss Pain left us in 1923, though she maintained many of her individual contacts.

When the second World War seemed imminent, I asked Miss Pain to come and see me, and offered her the post of head of the Braille and Typewriting School, and of preliminary training generally at Ovingdean, and she accepted. When we moved to Church Stretton she was appointed Commandant-Matron of that institution, and for a time carried the whole responsibility of the place upon her shoulders until the work became too heavy and a Commandant was appointed and she became the Matron of St. Dunstan's. She continued in this office throughout the period at Church Stretton and then at Ovingdean until the present day. Apart from her job as Matron at Ovingdean, Miss Pain also had a very considerable

correspondence with St. Dunstaners and their families all over the country, and this unofficial extension of our welfare work was of the greatest value.

The debt owed to Miss Pain by St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners can never be repaid except by the continuance of a glow of memory of her kindness and sympathy which has lightened the way of life for so many men and women who will wish to say "thank you and good luck."

Miss Frances Ramshaw will be appointed Matron at Ovingdean when Miss Pain retires. Miss Ramshaw joined our staff in 1943 as a braille teacher, having previously been on the staff of the National Library for the Blind. She was later promoted to the position of Education Assistant, and a little time afterwards Training Officer, which position she now holds.

Miss Ramshaw has rendered very valuable service during the past eight years and there can be few St. Dunstaners who were at Church Stretton or Ovingdean during this period who have not met her and benefited by her help and counsel.

All St. Dunstaners will, I know, wish her well in the important office she will be taking up at the end of the year.

IAN FRASER.

Her Majesty's Birthday

The following telegram was sent to Her Majesty the Queen on August 4th:

"Please convey to Her Majesty the Queen the loyal and affectionate greetings of the men of St. Dunstan's on the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday."

IAN FRASER.

Her Majesty's Private Secretary sent the following reply:

"The Queen sends her sincere thanks to all who joined in your message of loyal good wishes which have given Her Majesty great pleasure."

PRIVATE SECRETARY.

London Reunion

28th November, 1951

The London Reunion Dance at the Seymour Hall, Seymour Place, London, W.1, is being held this year on Wednesday, 28th November, from 7.30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

This function is primarily for St. Dunstaners living in the London area and it is not possible to make accommodation arrangements for those who cannot return to their own homes the same night.

One ticket will admit a St. Dunstaner and one escort. (It is regretted that children under sixteen cannot be included).

Application for tickets should be made to Mr. Mackay at Headquarters as soon as possible, and in any case, not later than Friday, 9th November.

Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Dembenski, Cheltenham, July 7th; Mr. and Mrs. W. Cromwell, Gloucester, May 22nd; Mr. and Mrs. S. Catlow, Nelson, September 18th.

The Ban is Raised

St. Dunstaners in all parts of the country will be delighted at the lifting of the ban on football broadcasts.

It will be a point of interest to many that Brentford Football Club, before the ban was raised, arranged for a group of blind people to listen to a running commentary given by Brentford's manager, Mr. Jack Gibbons. The match chosen was Brentford v. Rotherham, and Mr. Gibbons gave his commentary to the group in the stand by a system of headphones.

Increased Retirement Pensions

As was mentioned in the July REVIEW, Retirement Pensions for men between 65—70 and women between 60—65 on the 1st October, 1951, will be increased from 26s. to 30s. a week, and there will be an increase from 16s. to 20s. in the Retirement Pension payable to a wife by reason of her husband's insurance.

If any St. Dunstaners or their wives are receiving a Retirement Pension at the standard rates of 26s. or 16s., and are within the age limits mentioned, they should send or take their Order Book at once to their local National Insurance Office if they have not already done so.

Your Change?

A St. Dunstaner in Harrogate early in July left a toy shop in Montpelier Parade without his change. The proprietors of the shop are anxious to trace him. If this comes to the notice of the St. Dunstaner concerned, will he write to Headquarters stating what he bought and his change will be sent on to him.

London Club Notes

The London Club has reopened after the August holiday, and by the time these lines are in print, the Sir Arthur Pearson whist competitions will be well on the way and the finals for the indoor section will be played off at Brighton in November. All St. Dunstaners will find a warm welcome at the London Club.

Indoor Section

The Club reopened on September 1st and from now on we expect to be busy with the winter programme—whist on Tuesdays and Saturdays, dominoes on Thursdays.

The Sir Arthur Pearson aggregate whist competition starts on Tuesday, September 11th, and will carry on on Tuesdays for six weeks.

The Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial competitions are dragging a little; will members who have entered for the cribbage and domino sections who have still got games to play, please try to come along and play off their outstanding heats as soon as possible.

The Committee hope to see increased attendances during the winter.

CHARLES J. WALKER,
Chairman, Indoor Section Sub-Committee.

Outdoor Section

On Saturday, July 14th, six R.A.F. walkers turned out to compete against us, over 5 miles, for the "R.A.F. Halton Cup." This is a new Cup, subscribed for by G. A. Towers and his R.A.F. friends, and will be competed for annually.

The race was started by our chairman, Percy Ashton, and Tommy Gaygan got away to his usual cracking start, closely followed by George Towers of the R.A.F. The positions after the first mile were Tommy, Towers, Gardener, Kernish, Charles Williamson, Archie Brown, and then Tommy Denmead, Pat Cryan and Alf Bradley in a bunch.

Owing to the pace, Gardener and Kernish of the R.A.F. were unable to hold their positions and fell to 5th and 6th places, enabling Charles and Archie to move up to 3rd and 4th places, in which positions they finished.

George Towers dogged Tommy's footsteps until the last lap when, with a fine walking style, he pulled away to finish strongly first.

Congratulations to St. Dunstan's team for winning the Cup by the narrow margin of 17 points to 19, and to Tommy Denmead who walked a fine race despite the fact that he had not been well for a week. Bad luck, Pat Cryan, who had to retire through cramp only 100 yards from the finish.

This race proved more than usually interesting to the spectators as it consisted of 8 laps of the Inner Circle, and after about two laps, when the field began to spread out, there was always a competitor to watch.

G. Kernish of the R.A.F. won the sealed handicap, Alf Bradley and Charles Stafford dead-heating for second place. A very nice bit of handicapping.

At the beginning of next season we are entertaining the London Stock Exchange and hope to see some more walkers, please.

PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WALKS FOR 1951/52

2 miles	22nd September at Highgate
5 miles	20th October at Regent's Park
6 miles	1st December at Regent's Park
7 miles	12th January at Regent's Park
10 miles	16th February at Regent's Park
12 miles	22nd March at Regent's Park
15 miles	26th April at Wembley
7 miles	17th May at Brighton
5 miles	28th June at Regent's Park

Are You Using Your Talking Book?

A large number of St. Dunstaners are not using their Talking Book machines. To meet the requests of those who have never had one, it will be necessary for us to pay the present high cost of new machines. If you do not intend to use your machine, please return it to us and an allowance will be made in accordance with the price which you originally paid.

J. E. COOPER, *Men's Supplies.*

From Mr. F. H. Edwards

To all of my friends who contributed to my presentation, I would like to say, "Thank you." I received a Marconi wireless set, a Westminster chiming clock, a walking stick, a cheque for the balance, and a list of subscribers numbering more than eighty.

All these I appreciate, and also the settle from the Council of St. Dunstan's, but I appreciate even more the spirit which prompted these gifts and the friendship I have had and which I still possess.

F. H. E.

From London to Brighton

On Sunday, September 2nd, fifteen St. Dunstaners and their wives took part in a day's outing to Brighton organised by the Association of Jewish ex-Service Men and Women. Ex-Service men from the St. David's Home at Ealing were also in the party.

Leaving Headquarters at half past ten, we made our way by road to the rendezvous in Sussex. Strange to say, this spot did not appear to be shown on any map, but after much hilarity the party settled down to a wonderful picnic in Bolney village, prepared by the lady members of A.J.E.X.

Then we wended our way into Brighton—a happy though dampened party, for the heavens had opened and the rain was pouring down. Our kind hosts had planned an excellent high tea for us at Marwin's Restaurant, where Mrs. Hilton, one of the Vice-Presidents of A.J.E.X., made a very pretty speech of welcome. Having filled the inner man, we made our way to Ovingdean, where a concert was given to our party and to St. Dunstaners resident at the home. Warm thanks on behalf of St. Dunstan's and the St. David's Home were conveyed to the members of A.J.E.X. and to the concert performers.

So back to London, where our friends took us back individually—a gesture greatly appreciated.

Our warm thanks are extended to Miss Sampson, Chairman of the Women's Section of A.J.E.X., Miss Levy, the Hon. Secretary, and all their colleagues for a wonderful time.

P.S.—If Brighton people have found four wasps that stowed away from Bolney, their relatives are anxiously awaiting their return!

H. C.

Placements

J. Langley, as an industrial worker at the Metal Box Company, Brighton; C. Nuttall has commenced trading as a tailor at Flixton, Manchester; H. Roberts, as a telephone operator at the Ministry of Labour, Tyldesley Road, Blackpool.

Christmas Accommodation

We are now taking bookings for Christmas and would be pleased to welcome any St. Dunstaner and his family who would care to spend it with us. They can be assured of a good time and plenty of food.

MARGARET STANWAY,

West House, 13 Grove Street, Morecambe.

The Physiotherapy Conference

The Annual Conference of St. Dunstan's physiotherapists took place at the Training Centre, Ovingdean, during the week-end of September 8th.

Speaking at a luncheon which preceded the Conference, Sir Neville Pearson, Bart., President of St. Dunstan's, said that there were now 125 St. Dunstan's physiotherapists practising in the United Kingdom; the successful settlements during the past year included three overseas. A number of other students were still undergoing training. This record, Sir Neville said, gave some idea of the important contribution St. Dunstan's physiotherapists were making to the health of the community.

The Minister of Pensions, the Rt. Hon. George A. Isaacs, J.P., M.P., was unable to be present at the Conference, but in a message to the company, which was read by Sir Neville, he paid his tribute to the wonderful work carried out by St. Dunstan's in the care of the war blinded of two wars; the Minister added his assurance that sympathetic consideration would be given to the application from St. Dunstaners wanting regular hospital work. "Many," he said, "combine part-time hospital work with private practice and I have the highest praise for the excellent work which they perform. I send my best wishes to you all."

Other speakers during the Conference included Professor James Whillis, M.D., M.S., Chairman of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, the well-known road walker, Mr. A. J. Stirling Wakeley, who recently won the "Sunday Dispatch" walk from London to Brighton and back, and Mr. E. E. Underdown, Special Lecturer at the School of Physiotherapy.

In the election of the Advisory Committee for the following year, Mr. J. D. Calder was returned as chairman, taking the place of Mr. S. C. Tarry. The remainder of the Committee was as for the preceding year.

Lady Pearson, Matron Pain, and Mr. Askew were among others present at the Conference.

Manchester Club

Two second war St. Dunstaners—Messrs. Stanley Heys and J. Blakeley—have been elected to the Committee of the Club. W. McCarthy, of Manchester, has been re-elected Chairman.

Birmingham Club Notes

On July 7th the Birmingham Club was invited to the British Legion Club. At 3.30 we were greeted by the Lord Mayor and an hour later sat down to a grand tea, followed by a concert in which the artists were very good. We left for home, tired but very happy.

Our July meeting was late—it was on the 29th—when there was a good turn-out by the boys and the Red Cross gave us a lovely tea which was served on the terrace in the sunshine. Later some of us played indoor games.

For our September meeting we are looking forward to a Grand Swimming Gala which we hope to make a success. Ideas will be welcome to make it so. Please come and do your best for the Club.

L. KIBBLER.

Larks in the Music Hut

It was early one Tuesday evening

With nothing better to do,

I strolled across to the music hut

To be met by a hullabaloo.

It was Jim from Bolton on t' piano,

And he said to Ted, "Listen 'ere,

If I can't play 'Careless Rapture'

We'll go out and I'll buy some beer."

It wasn't long ere he'd finished,

His left hand was wandering afar,

All I could make of his playing

Was da de da, da de da da.

Then Teddy boy said "Now it's my turn,

That's enough of you for one night,"

Then he heaved his squeeze box on his shoulders

And started to play "Starry Night."

The night wasn't a little bit starry,

Once again Jim said, "Listen 'ere,

We'll all have a good bash at 'Twelfth Street'

And then it'll have to be beer."

So with George Rob. from Ewell, Jim from Bolton,

Ted from Cambridge, and also me,

We all had a good bash at "Twelfth Street,"

But, alas, too late for beer, it was tea.

So ended one more day at Brighton,

Or at Ovingdean to be correct,

We'd master that tune they call "Twelfth Street,"

Or in the attempt break all our necks.

GEORGE EMERSON.

Talking Book Library

August, Arabian and "Hanaudian."

Between the showers of this unco-operative holiday month, only a brace of books achieved the library register. "At the Villa Rose," a detective novel, and "Arabesque," a Middle East wartime intrigue with a spot of romance thrown in, were the guilty couple, both highly entertaining in their somewhat different ways.

"At the Villa Rose," by A. E. W. Mason, reader John de Manie, shows Monsieur Hanaud investigating a murder and abortive robbery on the French side of the Swiss border. The first half of the book consists of the detective's enquiries, deductions, etc., and the second half is a detailed reconstruction of the whole crime. I read it at the age of twelve or thirteen, and then I believed it was considered a classic detective yarn. It has lost nothing over the years!

"Arabesque," by G. Household, readers Gordon Little and Arthur Bush, is not, as one might suspect, a duet, but the natural replacement of a reader whose absence is unavoidable. Arabs, Jews, French and British Field Security Police, and a British officer's wife of French origin, are the main items in a web of intrigue, but of which, after the war, the Jews alone seem to have emerged with any degree of success. The story starts in Syria, flits to the Lebanon, thence to Palestine, and culminates in Cairo, where a British F.S.P. sergeant, the main male character, and the damsel previously noted, plight their troth in no uncertain fashion after the male has suffered the indignity of becoming commissioned. However, all is neat and tidy since the lady's husband finds a better gal in the U.K., where he is stationed. Intricate but good value!

May we all have Indian Summers!

NELSON.

Grandfathers

A. Loveridge, Harrow; E. Williams, Shipley; C. E. Temperton, Hull; W. J. Keen, Purton; H. L. Dickinson, Wigan; W. E. Flowers, Sheldon, Birmingham.

Grandmother

Mrs. W. Wilson, Blackburn.

★ ★ ★

The braille REVIEW would be appreciated by Mr. J. Dorgan, 84 Tyne Road, Kirklethian Estate, Redcar.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I have followed with much interest your readers' letters regarding reductions from Unemployment Benefit and I can verify Mr. Robinson's statement in the July REVIEW. I can go further and state that as at present I am only employed for one day per week, there is an additional deduction of five shillings and eightpence, plus four and elevenpence for a stamp, which, in my case, leaves five shillings and fivepence for a day's work.

It is our duty to "render unto Cæsar, etc." and any concession in this direction would be against our own interests, but we ourselves must fight back every time we hear that statement, "Of course, you have a good pension." I have heard this from such high levels as doctors, schoolmasters and clergy, and while the basic pension remains as it is, it is an injustice to those who have fallen, to we who are left, and to those yet to come from the battle zones of the Far East.

Braunton,
Devon.

Yours sincerely,
V. DAVIES.

DEAR EDITOR,

Some time ago I read in this column about blind men wearing rubber on the end of their sticks. I don't know, but I should imagine that this would be like trying to read braille with rubber gloves on.

Talking of rubber, I would like to mention here that blind men should not wear it on their shoes and that steel tips or loud heels should be worn.

While on holiday at the Home, you decide to have a stroll in the grounds when suddenly, like a bolt from the blue, you are knocked flying and your opponent cries out, "Who's that?" Your reply comes from a horizontal position, "I know, you are Randolph Turpin," but alas, my friends, it isn't Turpin, but one of our deaf-blind.

A lot of these bumps may be prevented by the wearing of hard heels, except, of course, on turf.

We know these men cannot hear you but, thank God, we can.
Manor Park.

JIMMY WATSON.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was very interested in the article on Bowls in the July issue of the REVIEW and the view taken by Sir Ian Fraser, that if St. Dunstaners joined their local bowling club

they would find good companionship and derive a lot of pleasure. Having played bowls for a number of years, in fact, still rolling them up, I can appreciate the comments by the bowler returning from Australia on St. Dunstaners down under who play the game. If a man acquired knowledge of the game while sighted, he can usually step on the mat, place his body square, get his feet in the right position automatically and he can usually deliver the wood so that it arrives near his objective. As in every other game, the more practice the more perfect.

Indoor bowling on mats during the winter months is another interesting game and one I would recommend to those taking up bowls for the first time. It is like miniature rifle practice before going on the open range.

I am a member of a club in this district where I enjoy many hours of good companionship, wonderful exercise, the sport of the game, God's fresh air and the sunshine. When I get to the club I generally hear from one quarter or another, "What about it, Willie. Coming out on the greens? If you want to bowl your woods, let me know." I mention this last bit to show the spirit generally found amongst bowlers, who are mostly men of middle age or elderly men, and from these you can nearly always find that sympathetic help a St. Dunstaner needs.

Trusting those interested in the game will get as much pleasure from it as I do,

Yours faithfully,
W. C. KEAST.

Clacton.

DEAR EDITOR,

In the June issue, a plea was made for another appellation to replace the odious "Propaganda." This word has come to suggest something sinister and repugnant in every phase of modern life. It suggests organised distortion of fact, and that is the last thing St. Dunstan's desires or requires. I should like to suggest that the members of the publicity service should be said to be on "P.I." or alternately "S.D.P.D." P.I. would represent Public Information among St. Dunstaners, and the second would represent St. Dunstan's Publicity Department. P.I. I suggest as appropriate seeing that "Propaganda" keeps St. Dunstan's in the public eye.

We are all engaged, when we leave St. Dunstan's, on a life-long task of propagating

the knowledge of St. Dunstan's and its meaning in the blind world, not merely the war blind.

The man or woman who leads as full a normal life in his or her own locality, profiting by the training of St. Dunstan's, is "On Propaganda." Those who for personal reasons refuse to wear the badge or act subversively and "have no use for propaganda" ignore the fact that St. Dunstan's training has raised a torch in the older blind world that did not think adult training practical.

Hats off, therefore, to the genuine members of that obnoxious "Propaganda" who, as the writer says (but in other words), keep the public informed and prove that financial P.I. (pie) from which we all so generously partake. Propaganda is the Prop on which all causes rest, but we do not now like the word, so please, if "P.I." is not acceptable, let us just say they are on H.Q.

Faithfully yours,

Castle Cary.

A. J. RADFORD.

News from All Quarters

Bert Green's baby daughter, Diana, was presented, with her mother, to Princess Elizabeth when Her Royal Highness opened a new Wing at Worthing Hospital. Diana was born on the same day as Princess Ann. The Princess thought Diana a lovely baby and chatted a long time with Mrs. Green.

Teddy Mills, one of our deaf-blind St. Dunstaners, won second prize for his garden and nine prizes in the local Flower Show.

Walter Thornton is the author of a booklet on "Bournville Works Youths' Committee," which has recently been published by Messrs. Cadbury Brothers.

C. G. Blackwell has two interests—archæology and ethnology. He is anxious to know whether any other St. Dunstaners share his enthusiasm for these subjects.

T. Batt, of Oakhill, near Bath, secured a first, five second, and three third prizes at the local British Legion Flower Show on September 1st, and a first prize for the heaviest marrow on the same day at Bristol.

H. T. Cheal, of Saltford, took first prize for his onions at this year's Bristol Show. He has won this prize four years in succession. At a local show this month he secured another first for his onions and a first prize for begonias.

Tom Callaghan, who emigrated to Australia a few months ago, is settling down well. In a most interesting letter, he describes his house and garden (they are near the sea), but he also says how much he misses St. Dunstan's. He writes, "Everything was so strange to me that I thought I would never get used to it, but like everything else, it takes time."

An Old-World House

It is odd to recall that just so few short years ago, Rudyard Kipling wrote "The Absent-minded Beggar," and to remember that Sir Arthur Sullivan set the words to music; nor is it maybe topical to recount that nearly a quarter of a million pounds were thus raised for the Boer War Comforts Fund.

But on this lovely summer afternoon, with the lark singing out its heart high above the Sussex Downs, I was one of the people who had the privilege to visit the Kipling room at his old home "The Elms." On the high walls is inscribed a tablet indicating that he lived here between the years of 1897 and 1903. The house, a lovely one set in a beautiful old-world garden, with its high walls, was surely a setting in which a man so gifted in touching the hearts of everyone by his simple writings of the ordinary man could write. It seems odd now to remember that early in this century Rudyard Kipling was pestered by thousands of curious folk wanting to see where he wrote his Barrack Room Ballads, and to learn as I have learned from people who knew the author, how often in his walks on the Sussex Downs and along the Rottingdean High Street he was stopped by someone asking to be directed to Kipling's house.

The room in which the many relics are exhibited is a lovely cream room, with fairly low ceiling, and containing letters, MSS., photographs and many homely mementoes of an author who was beloved by so many. A wonderfully friendly exhibition, made possible only by the courtesy and understanding of the Rottingdean folk who knew Rudyard Kipling—and to whom I, for one, would like to say "Thank you for the wonderful privilege."

MAUREEN V. LEES.

Brighton Notes

Ovingdean

It is now over two months since our last news from Ovingdean and there have been plenty and varied activities happening here during that time.

Sports Day, which was held on 21st July, was a fine, sunny day and well attended. We were all very pleased to have Sir Neville and Lady Pearson with us on this occasion and also to see so many other friends of St. Dunstan's and local men come along. The Individual Athletic Trophy was won this year by Jack Fulling. He gave a very fine performance and is to be particularly congratulated because he is a new St. Dunstaner and only came to the Training Centre in June of this year. Ovingdean also won the Team Trophy this year, much to our delight.

From Sports Day the end of term was well in sight and the End of Term Dance and Concert were held the following week.

On 26th July a repeat performance of the End of Term Concert was given in aid of the Mayor of Portsmouth's "Affray Appeal Fund," and together with the collection made at the End of Term Concert the sum of £29 15s. 3d. was forwarded. We were most grateful to the local residents who supported us, to John Proctor of Rottingdean who was our enthusiastic Agent in the Village, and, of course, to those trainees and Staff who took part in the Concert and made it so successful. A letter of appreciation has since been received from the Mayor of Portsmouth. In all, including a previous collection amongst St. Dunstaners and Staff, the sum of £43 8s. 3d. has been sent from Ovingdean and West House, Brighton.

St. Dunstaners on holiday at Ovingdean during July and August have had a wide choice of entertainments. Undoubtedly one of the most popular available was the Annual Busmen's Outing and on the 10th July we joined with men from West House, picked up local men in Brighton so that gradually there were four coaches, and a double-decker bus with a band, wending a leisurely way through Sussex.

Like "Johnnie Walker," the St. Dunstan's Busmen's Outing, born 1921, is still going strong! The founder was Mr. Mark Richards, who is surely well known to most

St. Dunstaners who have spent holidays at West House and Ovingdean.

This year, as on many other occasions, the first stop was at "The Swan," Fittleworth, where Mr. Thorpe-Oliver was our host. He has supplied refreshments for similar outings, as his contribution to the day, for a number of years and through these columns we should like to express our thanks to him and indeed to all those connected in any way with the Outing which has been, for so many years, one of the highlights of entertainment for St. Dunstaners in and around Brighton, and something which those from further afield who spend their holidays here remember of Southern hospitality and friendship.

From Fittleworth the procession went onto Midhurst, where at "The Crown" we were served with an excellent lunch and everyone present was given a packet of cigarettes. Another thoughtful gesture on behalf of the organisers was that cigarettes were sent to St. Dunstan's for those men who were in the Sick Wards and were too ill to join the Outing. After lunch everyone went to Cowdray House ruins, which is a lovely spot in Cowdray Park, and here the band (Patcham Boys' Band) played dance music and many of the ladies of Midhurst came along to join in the dancing on the lawn, and so we spent an enjoyable afternoon until tea at 4.30.

The last stop before home was at Boxgrove, where we arrived about 7 p.m. and were greeted by the British Legion and again more refreshments and music.

This year was the first time that St. Dunstan's girls had been included in the party. On their return they said how much they had enjoyed the day and so perhaps there will be invitations for them on future Outings.

"The Sussex Fortnight" provided plenty of enjoyment or annoyance for our racing enthusiasts and our coaches went off to each meeting laden.

For those who prefer to take their holiday in a more leisurely manner, there were several coach rides round Sussex, visiting such spots as Alfriston, Arundel and the famous Wannock Gardens, and on two occasions a party made a trip by sea to Beachy Head. Unfortunately, the weather has not been good enough for us to go more than twice this season.

West House

During July and August there have been many occasions when we have joined forces with men from Ovingdean, particularly for excursions to the Races, which were many as the "Sussex Fortnight" was held during July.

Towards the end of that month also two West House men joined with a party of six men from Ovingdean, who, at the invitation of Sir Ian Fraser, visited the House of Commons. It was a fine warm day, but in spite of this the whole party were intensely interested in the debate which was taking place in the House, and very much appreciated the arrangements which Sir Ian and Lady Fraser had made for them afterwards.

Over the August Bank Holiday week-end, we welcomed a party of men from Ovingdean to a Whist Drive and we also acted as hosts to patients from the John Howard Convalescent Home that same afternoon, and in the evening we had a party of civilian blind from the Toc H Club in Brighton, playing dominoes.

The rest of the week-end passed pleasantly. There was an afternoon drive for men and escorts on the Sunday, with tea at Abbotsford, and on August Monday we had a whole day out in the coach, taking picnic lunch and tea with us. The remainder of the week was taken up with Brighton and Lewes Race Meetings.

London Boroughs' Braille Reading Competition

Eighteen London boroughs have indicated their willingness to take part in an Inter-Borough Braille Reading Competition. The competition will be open to all blind persons in the participating boroughs, and the proposed date is December 1st, 1951. Prizes will be given to individual competitors who are successful and, in addition, entrants will represent their own borough in the inter-borough competition.

New Apparatus

The National Institute for the Blind is now able to supply a 3ft. folding steel rule. The rule is $\frac{3}{4}$ in. in width, and the swivel joints are at the 9in., 18in. and 27in. positions. The inch and half-inch positions are marked throughout by a notch. At one end of the rule the first inch is divided into quarters; at the other end, into eighths. Catalogue Number, 9465. The price to blind people, 8s. 6d. (list price 12s. 9d.).

Young St. Dunstaners

Pamela Hold, Yeovil, won the Somerset Junior Athletic title for sprinting for her school with a record time for the county of 10.4 seconds for 80 yards (under 12's).

Brian Hold has won a scholarship and two prizes for good work in English.

Alan Worthington, Liverpool, was one of nine boys chosen to sing with the Philharmonic Choir at Liverpool Festival. Sir Malcolm Sargent conducted.

Margaret Davies, Darwin, has taken her degree at Bristol, with Honours in Languages.

Mavis Hazel has obtained a pass degree for music and is now Graduate of the Royal Schools of Musics, a pass degree recognised by the University of London.

Donald Smart has received the L.D.S. degree at Victoria University, Manchester, and has now been appointed House Surgeon at the University Hospital there.

Michael Scott-Pearey, in the special entrance examination for all the Services, has taken 10th place for the United Kingdom. He has just left Christ's Hospital, having won his rugby and swimming colours, the geography prize and school leavers' prize.

Raymond Burgin, Southwick, has passed his B.Sc. Finals.

John Floyd, Teignmouth, has gained his B.A. in modern languages.

John Campbell, Houghton-le-Spring, has been successful in the Advanced Scholarship examination for entrance to Bangor University.

David Paterson, York, is organist at Kilvington Parish Church after only five terms of studying music.

Marriages

Audrey James, Darlington, in August, to Geoffrey Cox.

On July 19th, Bob Brooks, Southampton.

On June 16th, Kenneth Dixon, Bolton, to Miss Phyllis Entwistle.

Jean McLurg, Port William, in August.

On July 28th, Mary Duxbury, East Didsbury, to John Hore.

F. Ralph's son has married recently.

On August 5th, Vera Wicken, Wolverhampton, to J. Green.

On July 21st, Hettie Marsden, Alderholt, to T. A. H. Tarrant.

Blackpool Notes

July and August have brought us the usual round of visits to the Lakes (on August 23rd, J. Jordan remembered the route and made an excellent commentator), to the races, to the Elswick "Boot and Shoe," and to an eight-hour party at the Carlton Club. A party of St. Dunstaners, Messrs. Dunkerley, Shaw, Clay, Down, Gifford and Russell, with Mr. Blythe as escort, had an interesting experience on July 22nd when they visited the training quarters of Ronnie Clayton, the Empire feather-weight champion.

Ronnie gave the party a very warm welcome and presented them with autographed photos of himself. Ronnie's manager-secretary, Mr. Jim Turner, was also extremely kind and supplied much detailed explanation of the rigorous training needed by a champion.

Several of the party were reminded of P.T. days, and most of them had a short bout with the punching ball.

The highlight of the visit, perhaps, was the handling of the famous Lonsdale Belts. There are two of these. One is Ronnie's property, having been won outright by beating such well-known opponents as Al Philips, Johnny Mollow and Jim Kenny. The other one is held until it also is won, or lost by a defeat. These trophies were of gold and are beautiful models of craftsmanship. Perhaps it was as well that our people did not know that the pre-war value of one was £850.

On leaving, both the champion and his manager expressed their pleasure in meeting our St. Dunstaners, and with hearty good wishes for his continued success, the visit ended.

B.V.D. AND HER 236 ELEPHANTS.

National Laying Test, 1950-51

Report for 11th period of 4 weeks,

July 16th to August 12th, 1951.

1 Jackson, G.	...	...	...	1144
2 Holmes, Percy	...	...	...	1098
3 Clark, T.	...	...	...	1097
4 Gregory, T. D.	...	...	...	1067
5 Woodcock, W. J.	...	...	...	1020
6 Jarvis, Albert	...	...	...	1012
7 Smith, W. Alan	...	...	...	765
8 Taylor, Tom	...	...	...	697

Totals to date, 9047

Average per bird, 191.36

Almost a Tragedy

'Twas afternoon at Westbury Camp

We all lay gently snoring.

Outside the rain fell fast and damp,

Like cats and dogs, was pouring.

When suddenly a cry was heard

A cry of fear and woe,

It came again, the sleepers stirred,

The cry was soft and low.

"Help, help," we heard the voice cry out,

"Will someone come and let me out?"

"Who's missing?" queried Saunders, Vic

We'll find out in half a tick.

There's Jacky Back, he's on his bed.

Next to him is Aubrey, Fred.

There's Melville, Clem, and Bentley, Ben,

Bill Bowering and Bob Cook,

Peter Batt, Bob Shave, and there's old

"Gen,"

Let's have another look.

Bert Derges, too, is sleeping sound,

Arthur Seal in tent is found.

"Ah, here it is, an empty bed."

The missing guy is Wareham, Fred.

The lower deck replace their eyes,

Go on the prowl to trace those cries

But cannot hear a stir or sound.

Is Freddie lost, ne'er to be found?

When suddenly we hear a tap,

"He's shut in here," shouts out one chap,

"Please tap again, oh, please do, Fred

And tell us that you're not yet dead."

"I'm not dead," came the faint reply,

"To get me out, please have a try,

We tried in vain to free the lad,

His spirits were at zero.

To die so young was just too sad,

This gallant Dunkirk hero.

We urged him on, told him to sing

"Lead kindly light," "Where is death's
sting,"

While rescuers tried to smash the door

His pals outside just sang some more.

"Oh," said Fred, "I'm feeling ill,

Methinks I'd better make my will.

My tools and ties I leave to Clem,

My plastic eyes I leave to "Gen."

And then a cheer from lower deck,

The door smashed in was now a wreck,

Freddie stood there proud and gay

To gaze once more on light of day.

All this trouble caused, you see,

Through being locked in the lavatory.

Each word I've written, sure is true,

Speaks for itself, it's in the REVIEW.

"GEN."

Literary Competition

The Queensland Musical, Literary and Self-Aid Society for the Blind have sent us details of an annual Literary competition open to blind and semi-blind people throughout the English speaking world. The adult section includes a competition for a one act play, short story, poem, essay, and limerick, a condition being that each entrant submit two entries, one of which must be in the Limerick section. There are £5 prizes for the first four sections, and a £1 prize for the limerick. Second prizes are of £2 and 10s. The one act play must be of 30 minutes' duration; the short story approximately 3,000 words, and the essay approximately 1,500 words. Closing date: October 31st. A *nom-de-plume* must be used, with full name also, and entries sent to 247/251 Vulture Street, South Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. Entries may be in braille or typewritten.

Marriages

FRITH—GOODCHILD.—On July 28th, D. Frith, of Marlow, to Miss Peggy Goodchild.

HENDERSON—BATES.—On July 28th, Brenda Henderson, of Enfield, to Dennis Bates, son of our St. Dunstaner, E. D. Bates, of Islington. Brenda, who looked charming in a dress of white tulle with dark red roses, was given away by her father. Dennis's brother-in-law was his best man.

Births

BRERETON.—On September 14th, to the wife of G. Brereton, of Royton, near Rochdale, a daughter—Lynne.

FULLARD.—On August 9th, to the wife of R. Fullard, of Wrexham, a son—Martin John.

INNESS.—On August 13th, to the wife of J. Inness, of Dewsbury, a daughter.

JONES.—On July 31st, to the wife of R. C. Jones, Llandaff, Cardiff, a daughter—Megan Roberta.

LYNCH.—On September 17th, to the wife of J. Lynch, of Hornchurch, a son—Garry Jerome.

McCLARNAN.—On September 15th, to Mrs. E. McClarnan, a daughter.

Deaths

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the following:—

CHAMBERS.—To A. E. Chambers, of Ramsgate, who lost his wife on August 7th.

LAWLOR.—To J. Lawlor, of Perry Barr, Birmingham, whose wife has recently died very suddenly.

SIMMONS.—To W. A. Simmons, of Northampton, whose wife died as the result of an accident on July 26th.

STERNO.—To A. Sterno, of Bath, whose son, George, died suddenly on May 9th.

"In Memory"

Gunner James Thompson, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

We record with deep regret the death of James Thompson, of Bolton, who served with the R.G.A. from August, 1914, until January, 1915.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1917 and trained in joinery, but his health was never good and for a number of years he had taken things easily. His death occurred on August 8th.

A poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his family.

Signaller Ernest Gregory, *Royal Field Artillery*

With deep regret we record the death of E. Gregory, of Colchester. He was fifty-eight.

Immediately upon his discharge from the Army in November, 1918, he came to St. Dunstan's and trained in poultry and netting. He also worked on wool rugs and in a factory during the war. He passed away on August 23rd in hospital.

The Chairman's poppy wreath was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to his widow.

Charles Hodgson, *South African Infantry*

With deep regret we have heard of the death on April 9th of Charles Hodgson, of Cape Town, South Africa, who was admitted to our benefits in July, 1947, but was then too old to come to us for training.

Through Mr. Max McConnell, who has been visiting this country, we have only just heard with regret of the deaths of the following Australians:

J. P. BIRAM, New South Wales, 19th A.I.F.

H. S. DARLINGTON, Queensland, 9th A.I.F.

P. DRISCOLL, Armadale, 12th Reinf. 6th A.I.F.

A. T. HARRISON, Victoria.

B. PRENTICE, Victoria.

B. STAFFORD, Queensland, 9th A.I.F.

E. SMART, Victoria.

J. CLARK, Brisbane (1939-45 war).

Sergeant Harry Saunders, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

With deep regret we record the death of Harry Saunders, of Edmonton. He was fifty-eight.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1918 and trained as a telephonist. In 1920 he began work with Messrs. Howard Bros. (Timber Merchants), and he was there until his sudden death. In a tribute, Mr. Hanson, Director of Howard Bros., said: "He was unfailingly cheerful—even through the difficult years of the war when bombs were falling. We all admired him for his courage, cheerfulness and ability. I looked on him as a friend."

At the funeral at Tottenham Cemetery, Mr. Hanson, Mr. David Howard, and Mrs. Howard represented his firm; another St. Dunstaner, Mr. C. G. Williams, who works for the same firm, was present, as also was Miss Cecil Wood. Among the many flowers from friends and colleagues was one of poppies from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow.

Private Alfred George Blyde, 2nd/4th King's Own Yorks. Light Infantry

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. G. Blyde, of Camberwell, at the age of seventy-five. He trained at St. Dunstan's in netting and baskets, but ill health had prevented him carrying on for the past twelve months. His death occurred on August 8th.

He leaves a married daughter, who acted as his housekeeper, to whom our sincere sympathy is extended. The Chairman's wreath was among the flowers at the funeral.

Private Francis Gilhooly, 17th Royal Scots

We record with deep regret the death of Francis Gilhooly, of Verwood, Dorset. He was sixty years of age.

Wounded on the Somme in 1916, he came to St. Dunstan's the same year and trained as a mat and rug-maker and netter. He had been in failing health for some time and he died at West House, where he went after an operation in Hove General Hospital.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and grown-up family.

Fusilier Richard Henry Foster, Welch Fusiliers

We record with deep regret the death of R. H. Foster, of Caernarvonshire.

A regular soldier, this St. Dunstaner served with his regiment until August, 1920, but he did not come to us until 1948 when his age then prevented any serious training.

His death occurred at his home—a house in which he had just been settled.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

Private Benjamin George Wood, Royal Sussex Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of B. G. Wood, of Brackley.

He served with his regiment from November, 1915, until August, 1918, having been wounded in France in April of that year. He came to us in August, 1918, and trained as a basket maker and netter and continued with this work for many years. He seemed to make a good recovery after a serious operation but died unexpectedly at his home on June 29th.

A wreath from the Chairman was among the flowers at the funeral. A Union Jack covered the coffin. Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and child.

Private Thomas William Murphy, 21st Northumberland Fusiliers

With deep regret we record the death of T. W. Murphy, of Bedlington, who served from November, 1914, until October, 1916, when he at once entered St. Dunstan's. He was wounded at Armentieres.

He trained as a boot repairer and mat maker, although he had not carried on this type of work for a considerable time, for he had been ill for a very long period.

The flowers at his funeral included a poppy wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades. The British Legion was represented at the service.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

Driver John Ashmore, Royal Engineers

We record with deep regret the death of John Ashmore, of Loughborough. When war broke out in 1914 he had already served with his regiment since 1912; he was discharged in January, 1918. He did not come to us until 1933 when he trained as a basket maker and in spite of continued ill-health he carried on his craft for a great number of years. He died on July 11th in hospital where he had only been one day.

Flowers at the funeral included one of poppies from the Chairman.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

Driver Percy Frank Robins, Royal Field Artillery

It is with deep regret that we record the death of P. F. Robins, of Queen's Park, N.W.6. He was seventy-three.

He was discharged from the Army in 1919 but only came to us in 1935 when he trained in wool rugs.

He had been in failing health for some time and he passed away in hospital on August 13th.

He leaves a widow and a son by his first marriage, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

There were many beautiful wreaths sent for the funeral, including a poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends. Miss Cecil Wood was present at the cremation ceremony at Golders Green.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 387—VOLUME XXXV

OCTOBER, 1951

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

Registering Your Vote

AS this REVIEW appears we shall be taking part in another General Election, and there is just time to remind St. Dunstaners of the way in which they may register their vote.

Under the Blind Voters Act, a blind person may either

- (a) Take to the polling booth a companion, who may be any other person having a vote in the constituency or ward, or his or her father, mother, wife or husband, brother or sister, son or daughter, such persons being 21 years of age, to mark the ballot paper; or
- (b) Ask the Presiding Officer to mark the ballot paper in the presence of representatives of the candidates, as was the case before the law came into force in 1934.

The Bill ultimately allowing a blind person to have his paper marked by a relative or friend was piloted through Parliament by Sir Ian Fraser in 1933 in order to provide blind people with the greatest degree of secrecy in voting that is possible in their case. If this method is used, the voter must tell the presiding officer that he is blind and that he has brought a companion to mark his paper. The companion must then fill in and sign a simple declaration which will be given to him by the presiding officer stating whom the companion is and that he will keep his knowledge of the vote secret.

Friends from Overseas

In the past few months it has been our special pleasure to welcome to this country, and to St. Dunstan's again, A. F. McConnell, of Australia.

Through him, we have had news of Australians who came to St. Dunstan's many years ago and returned to that country, and through him we have picked up many lost trails. Mr. and Mrs. McConnell have been most welcome visitors to a number of our functions, including the Brighton Reunion, and we hope they will take back with them happy memories of their visit. They will certainly carry with them our very good wishes to all our friends in the Commonwealth.

Another visitor to London has been Cecil Purkis, of Preston, Ontario. During his visit to Headquarters he had an interview with Sir Ian, who said how pleased he was once again to meet "the guy with the trumpet," and asking him to take warm messages home to Canada.

What Cecil did not tell us was that he was going to be married almost at once. A few weeks later he married, at Blackheath, Miss Emily G. Bragg, who has been a schoolmistress in Canada, and has had many radio plays broadcast there—one also in our own B.B.C.'s Children's Hour.

Mr. and Mrs. Purkis return to Canada in the autumn. Our good wishes go with them.

His Majesty the King

The following telegram was sent to Her Majesty the Queen by our President, Sir Neville Pearson, on September 23rd, 1951: Her Majesty the Queen, Buckingham Palace.

The Council of St. Dunstan's, in the names of all the war-blinded, offer to Your Majesty and to the Princesses their heartfelt sympathy, loyalty and devotion in their time of deep anxiety, and their prayers for the swift recovery of their beloved Sovereign.

NEVILLE PEARSON,
President.

The following telegram was received by Sir Neville Pearson:

The Queen sends her sincere thanks to all who have joined with you in your kind message of sympathy, which Her Majesty much appreciates.

PRIVATE SECRETARY.

London Reunion

St. Dunstaners in the London area are reminded that the London Reunion Dance will be held on Wednesday, November 28th, from 7.30 to 11 p.m., and that application for tickets should be made to Mr. Mackay at Headquarters as soon as possible, and in any case not later than Friday, November 9th.

One ticket will admit a St. Dunstaner and one escort (it is regretted that children under sixteen cannot be included).

Jock Scores Again

When Jock Macfarlane won the Talent Competition at the Morecambe Holiday Camp earlier in the year, it entitled him to enter for the All-England Finals—and a prize of £200. Last month Jock went back to Middleton Towers for the Finals, and from twenty-nine competitors was awarded the second prize of £30. Between three and four thousand people were in the audience, and the judges were Wee Georgie Wood, Dolly Harmer, and Al Berlin, a theatrical agent. A boy of fourteen with a very fine voice won the first prize.

The judges said of Jock that his stage technique, delivery and control of his audience were masterly; they thought him a professional.

Mr. Beaufoy Meets Mr. Churchill

"Grandpa" Beaufoy, well known to many St. Dunstaners who were at Church Stretton, was presented to Mr. Winston Churchill when he visited Dover recently. The "Kent Messenger" writes:

"Mr. Beaufoy was blinded by a German shell in 1940, but he has so conquered his handicap that Mr. Churchill was at first unaware that he was sightless. The two men last met in the early days of World War II, when Mr. Beaufoy was commanding Dover's Special Constabulary. They were able to chat about old times, and Mr. Churchill was clearly stirred by his fellow Freeman's courage."

The article goes on to tell of Mr. Beaufoy's magnificent record of public service both during his years as Deputy Mayor (1914-1918) and Mayor (1919-1920) and since he was blinded.

"Grandpa," who is now eighty-two years old, sends "best wishes to all my old friends of St. Dunstan's."

In Brief

Freddy Mills, of Tavistock, took two first prizes for shallots, a second for tomatoes, and a third prize for beetroots in the local Show.

Tom Daborn was one of the Bexley Heath Club team of four which fished at the Dover Sea Festival recently and won the Team Cup. In addition, Tom was presented with a clock for the heaviest bag in the team.

W. Ruddock, of Great Ayton, and Mrs. Ruddock, won first prize for six pods of peas at Great Ayton W.I. Show.

For his "Twelve Poems of Blindness," Mr. Theodore Nicholl was awarded one of the Arts Council Poetry Awards. Mr. Nicholl is well known to our physiotherapy students as a regular reader at their hostel. The poems which gained him the award appeared in the magazine, "Adelphi."

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. S. Catlow, Nelson, September 18th.

★ ★ ★

There is no index of character so sure as the voice.—Disraeli.

London Club Notes

All London Club members are advised to make a note of November 21st (Wednesday), for on that evening we shall look forward to taking part in the Wilfred Pickles "Have a Go" programme. The time and place will be pinned on the Club notice board, and we look forward to a "bumper" crowd that evening.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge.—The St. Dunstan's Bridge Club paid their eleventh annual visit to Harrogate for one week, commencing September 29th. Headquarters this year presented a Cup to Harrogate for the Sunday evening event teams of four, and this year, the first year of our Cup, our team, Messrs. H. Gover, P. Nuyens, F. Winter, and C. Thompson, playing against ten other teams, came top with the narrow margin of 30 points, but no matter how small the win, we brought back the Cup.

The ladies of Harrogate entertained us to a Bridge Drive on Monday afternoon, and the winners were Messrs. Delany, Thompson and Gover. On Monday evening there was another Bridge Drive—with the Civil Service—and this time the winners were Messrs. Brown, Winter and Miller. We beat the "Stray" Club on Tuesday afternoon, and in the evening lost a match to Starbeck Men's Club. Wednesday was a bad day and we lost two matches—one to Pannal Golf Club and the other to Oakdale Golf Club. On Thursday evening we registered another winning match, against Knaresborough Golf Club. This means that we had three winning matches out of six—and I think we had every right to be pleased with ourselves.

Friday was our "At Home" Bridge Drive; our guests were our friends whom we had met and played with during the week, and the prizes were articles made by our men. It was a grand ending to a glorious week-end. Many thanks to Bob Willis, who was so helpful in every way.

H. GOVER.

Indoor Section.—On September 26th the St. Dunstan's Darts Team, with their wives and escorts, paid a visit to Stanley Hall, South Norwood, at the invitation of the South Norwood Chamber of Commerce, to witness the District Finals of the *People* Darts Championship. The St. Dunstan's teams afterwards played a match with the

winners. We were beaten, but not disgraced. We were given a wonderful reception by, among others, Mr. Webber and the British Legion, and also by the contesting teams.

Prizes were given for the St. Dunstaner making the highest score, and Dick Edwards won a very nice pewter mug.

We had a grand evening and hope it is the forerunner of others of a like nature.

We would like to see more members come along and enjoy themselves.

Will Club members please arrange to come along and play off their outstanding matches in the Sir Arthur Pearson competition.

CHARLES J. WALKER.

Outdoor Section.—The Highgate Harriers Gala of Race Walking, held in aid of St. Dunstan's, on September 22nd, heralded the opening of our outdoor season, 1951-52, with an invitation 2 miles handicap for St. Dunstan's walkers.

In glorious weather the event was enjoyed by competitors and spectators alike. Stan Tutton, on virtual limit, off to a cracking pace, set the back markers a severe task, but they were certainly up to the job and a very fine race developed, Chas. Williamson and Archie Brown only passing Tutton about a furlong from the post and finishing in that order, with four yards separating the first two.

The field was strengthened at the last minute by the entry of our old friend, Tommy ap Rhys, known to us in the past for his very sterling performances. He has promised his support for the five miles handicap on October 20th.

Result of 2-Mile Handicap

		<i>H'cap.</i> <i>Time</i>	<i>All.</i>	<i>Actual</i> <i>Time</i>
1.	C. Williamson	... 16.49	0.35	17.24
2.	A. Brown	... 16.50	0.50	17.40
3.	S. Tutton	... 17.0	3.50	20.50
4.	A. Bradley	... 17.09	1.40	18.49
5.	T. Denmead	... 17.14	1.30	18.44
6.	T. Gaygan	... 17.16	Scr.	17.16
7.	W. Miller	... 17.21	0.30	17.51
8.	T. ap Rhys	... 17.30	3.30	21.0

Fastest Time Medals (Scratch Race)

1.	T. Gaygan	... 17.16
2.	C. Williamson	... 17.24
3.	A. Brown	... 17.40

Councillor

Charles Cooper, of Worthing, has become a member of Worthing Town Council, the first blind man to do so.

Birmingham Club

The Swimming Gala at Birmingham for 1951 turned out to be a great success, thanks to competitors coming from all over the country. Hearty congratulations to the Welsh team on winning the Cup at their first attempt.

Special mention should be made of two competitors who were First War men—Mr. Biggs, of Leicester, who is 74, and Mr. Castle, of Birmingham. It was disappointing that for various reasons, mainly illness, more Birmingham men could not attend.

Come along, new men of St. Dunstan's around Birmingham, join your Club and take part, not only in swimming but in all kinds of sport, both outdoor and indoor. Bring your children along, too. All are welcome.

Our thanks must go to members of the British Red Cross Society, Leander Swimming Club, the City of Birmingham Baths Department, and other friends.

Prizes were presented by Mr. Rogers, County Director of Birmingham B.R.C.S.

Results:

Winning team	Wales	...	...	30 points
Second	...	London	...	23 "
Third	...	Midlands	...	14 "
Fourth	...	Rest of England	...	13 "

Team Cup—Wales.

Independent Challenge Cup (S.S.), also Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prize of Half Tea Set—Dunkley, Wales.

Independent Challenge Cup (T.B.), also Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prize of Winchester glass.

One length S.S.	1st	Dunkley (Wales)
	2nd	Fleisig (London)
	3rd	Barrett (Wales)
One length T.B.	1st	Hopkins (Wales)
	2nd	Harris and Stafford (both of London)
	3rd	Phillips (London)
One length, 1st war men	1st	Castle (Midlands)
	2nd	Biggs (Midlands)
One length back stroke S.S.	1st	Barrett (Wales)
	2nd	Fleisig (London)
One length back stroke T.B.	1st	Craddock (Warrington)
	2nd	Stanley (Market Harborough)
One length style	1st	Dunkley (Wales)
	2nd	Phillips (London)
	3rd	Hopkins (Wales)
Plunging	1st	Spencer (Weston-super-Mare)
	2nd	Bright (Midlands)
	3rd	Craddock (Warrington)
Diving	1st	Stanley (Market Harborough)
	2nd	Dunkley (Wales)
	3rd	Spencer (Weston-super-Mare)

Relay—Won by London team.

Talking Book Library

Spectacular September

This month an exceptional trio of books became available to delight the ears of even the least enthusiastic readers. It is unfortunate that "The Count of Monte Cristo" is such a long book, but the other two, "The White South" and "The Kon Tiki Expedition," are ideal in length and of a fantastic, gripping interest. So much for the covers—now for the "innards."

"The Count of Monte Cristo," by A. Dumas, reader G. Franklin Engleman, is a monumental volume of 66 records at 50 minutes a time without ever a dull moment. Edmond Dantes, a rough young sailor, is unjustly imprisoned for life. In prison he gets a good education and directions to discover a colossal treasure trove from an Abbé fellow prisoner. He escapes after twenty years, finds his treasure, and proceeds to revenge himself on those who gaoled him. It is a fine piece of marathon reading, and to those who have seen the film I would say that this book covers the film they saw, and has material for another dozen films of a similar length.

"The White South," by H. E. Innes, reader Robert Gladwell, is a rare adventure story of a tragic whaling expedition in the Antarctic. The story is shot through with ice, intrigue, murder, love, wrecks, heroism, and the all-pervading smell of whalemeat. A saga of endurance, endeavour, blizzards, and hope!

"The Kon Tiki Expedition," by Tjor Heyerdahl, reader Alvar Liddell, illustrated graphically that fact is sometimes stranger than fiction. Five Norwegians and a Swede take raft from Peru to demonstrate how some of the Pacific Islands became populated about eleven hundred years ago. Four thousand five hundred miles of never-ceasing hazard enjoyed by six hardy optimists. Excellent, curious, and most satisfying!

A fine batch of reading; do please take advantage of it if you possibly can.

"NELSON."

Placements

S. Blackmore, on inspection at the Royal Naval Armament Depot, Gosport; G. Bilcliff, on sub assembly with Messrs. John Wright Co., Ltd., Aston, Birmingham.

Brighton Notes

Ovingdean

September mornings have been chilly until the sun has been up for some hours, but the days have been warmer and finer than we have had for a long time. Undoubtedly those who have chosen, or for some other reason have had, a late holiday this year have been truly fortunate and have been able to make the most of getting out and about.

The trainees returned to Ovingdean during the early part of the month and by this time the term had begun to settle down. So far we have received four new St. Dunstaners for training. No sooner had term begun than invitations began to roll in, and one of the first entertainments came from the Seaford Bay Hotel, where a party of trainees spent a most enjoyable Social Evening. St. Dunstaner "Tony" Smith of Seaford is the Vice-Chairman of the Committee which organised the evening. Our thanks go to all concerned.

Mr. Cheesman, who is so well known to so many St. Dunstaners, particularly those who have been trained at Ovingdean, gave another of his regular dances at the "Arlington" on 27th September. He is untiring in his energy to provide these entertainments for us and has over and over again proved himself a rare friend.

Other entertainments have been shared by St. Dunstan's men on holiday, and we have been particularly glad to have with us again The Clairview Players. They will be remembered for several fine productions they have put on at Ovingdean during the last couple of years, and on Saturday, 29th September, gave a very fine performance of "The Happiest Days of Your Life."

September gave way to October, and already this month the swallows and house-martins have been gathering at Ovingdean prior to their migration to warmer climates. Clusters of these small birds have been wheeling round the building for several days, clinging to the brickwork, and then suddenly one morning they are gone.

Much time has been spent out of doors these last few weeks, either strolling on the Undercliff, riding in the Coaches to Wannock, Ockenden Manor, etc., or sitting out on the balcony playing dominoes or cards.

It has been a truly Indian Summer, and perhaps those who enjoyed it most of all

were the St. Dunstaners who came for the Autumn Deaf Reunion during the last week. We were pleased to have them with us once again—and here is what one of them has to say about it all:—

"When Leaves are Falling" Reunion

The leaves were falling on October 4th, the date on which the "Muffled Drums" took train and bus and went to Ovingdean for their Autumn Reunion.

The programme which had been planned for the five days met with full approval from all the boys, so we settled down to another joyful time to look back upon, which consisted of dinners, walks, drives and tea-fights—not forgetting the old chin-wagging on the fingers all about things in general and what we had been up to since we last met, and especially about our Matron, Miss Pain, who is leaving us at the end of this term, and I know how sorry we all feel about that, for some of us have known her for a good number of years.

The five days went all too quickly and the morning of 10th October saw us all saying farewell to each other and to Matron and the staff at Brighton who had worked so very hard to make the Reunion the success it was—many thanks to them from all of us. We wend our way home with a mind full of happy thoughts knowing that May won't be long in the Spring of 1952, and until then we must settle down to our home life once again until we trip off once more to Ovingdean to the next "Muffled Drums" Reunion, to the song of "When the fields are white with daisies."

W.R. (Middlesbrough).

West House

This month we have joined with Ovingdean each time there has been a race meeting and have made the most of the few afternoon drives which have been available.

Dominoes continue as popular as ever, and at the beginning of the month the Civilian Blind Toc H Club came along for a match.

The monthly Whist Drive, at which the John Howard Convalescent Home patients were our guests, was played on 28th September.

The Deaf Reunion visited us on Sunday last and were entertained to tea and supper. It was nice to have a visit to the old house included in their programme.

The Last Reunions of 1951

The Lancashire meetings in July were, as usual, particularly well-attended and successful gatherings. Two days were again devoted to the Liverpool Reunion—July 12th and 14th—when our special guests were Mr. Pollitt, of the British Legion, and Major and Mrs. Charters. Major Charters needed no introduction particularly to those who were P.O.W.'s in Germany.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were present to welcome St. Dunstaners at the Manchester gathering on the 16th.

Bedford on July 26th was small in comparison but no less successful. The Rt. Hon. Lord Luke, M.A., D.L., J.P., who is Chairman of Bedford County British Legion, was guest of honour.

There were no meetings in August until the 18th, when some fifty St. Dunstaners met at the Queen's Hotel, Leeds, to be greeted by Mr. D. G. Hopewell, a member of St. Dunstan's Executive Council, and one of the happiest features of this Reunion was the presentation to Mr. F. H. Edwards, Country Life Visitor in the North from 1919 until his retirement last April.

Mr. Hopewell was again our special guest at Newcastle on August 20th, but we missed a familiar figure. Captain William Appleby, also a member of our Council, now lives in the South of England and was not able to be present on this occasion.

Edinburgh on the 22nd again saw Mr. Hopewell as guest of honour, and Lieut. Col. Colin McLeod, T.D., represented the British Legion, Scotland, of which he is General Secretary.

At Leicester Mr. Hopewell introduced St. Dunstaners to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, at what proved to be one of the largest meetings for this area.

By September there remained only the Irish Reunions, all of which were attended by Air Commodore and Mrs. G. Bentley Dacre, representing Sir Ian Fraser. Air Commodore Dacre expressed his great pleasure at the opportunity afforded him of meeting many St. Dunstaners who went through Church Stretton or Ovingdean when he was Commandant.

The Deputy Lord Mayor welcomed the guests to Belfast, and a British Legion friend, Mr. W. R. Knox, Vice-Chairman of the Legion in Northern Ireland, was present also. At Cork the Lord Mayor was guest of honour.

The Lee-on-Solent Camp

Although several weeks have passed since my return from Lee-on-Solent, I still find myself reflecting on the holiday and doubting its possible reality.

After experiencing many examples of hardness, selfishness and intolerance in this post-war Britain, it was indeed a delight to be the guest of a community where all was kindness and consideration. As an example, there was one young writer who came regularly each day, morning, noon and evening, to ask whether I would like a turn round the "deck" or "go ashore." This was typical of the whole Ship's Company, from the Commanding Officer to the most recently joined Wren or Rating, and this most certainly included the Civilian Staff. All, without exception, were intent on giving us a pleasant holiday without the least sign of restriction or regimentation.

My memory gives me repeated flashes of this programme. Parties on six evenings of the week; the pleasure and instruction value of the tour of the control tower, the briefing room, and the intercommunication between air and ground; *Victory* and *Vengeance*, the old and the new, and the word pictures in passing of the new Oil Refinery, submarines, flying boats, etc.

These are very happy memories and, in writing this, I wonder whether our hosts would appreciate how much sincerity can be packed into such a simple phrase as "Thank you, Daedalus, may I come again?"

J. T. C.

Fragments from Another Camp Diary

In spite of pouring rain, kept an appointment at the Camp gates, waited some time and got wet through... he and I were at different gates... Met the new record-breaking wizard of walking, but the old 'uns of walking are still putting up a grand show... As a fight fan, waved to the *Queen Mary* as she passed our launch in the Solent with Randolph Turpin amongst her passengers *en route* for America... at the end of this trip posed for a photo finish, but the cabin roof collapsed, and we were left in all manner of unorthodox positions, Jock Boyd being left hanging in the sailcloth cover!... A Boston two-step by one of the deaf-blind and partner, a remarkable achievement in timing, rhythm and stamina which was well applauded... A grand week.

H. A. H.

Tally-ho, Modern Variety

When, a few weeks ago, I decided I would travel to London by means of a modern coach, I was assailed on all sides, "Do you think it is wise?" But I thought it would be rather fun and a new experience.

So leaving Birkenhead at the crack of dawn—well, 8 a.m.—I found my seat in a streamlined coach. After experience of sitting, silently for hours on end, in a stuffy railway carriage, I found it a really new experience to find friendly neighbours. First I talked with a little Welsh woman—Bagillt I think she hailed from—and our subjects or topics of conversation ranged from England to Canada, and then to my pet subject of hand weaving. I learned, that this lady had a young niece living in the Lake District, a girl very interested in my pet subject. When we parted company I issued a vague invitation she should bring her niece some time to my weaving studio.

Then an older lady with a wee girl, Sally, seated in front talked with me, and she, too, had a daughter—an invalid I gathered—also interested in hand weaving, so once again I issued a "Well, when you are in Birkenhead, my place is at the top of the hill."

We passed through the old-world city streets of Chester and when we branched off, on account of the "one-way street" regulations, I remembered, with an inward chuckle, a previous drive when, on taking my goods to the Chester Exhibition, my driver had taken the wrong turning, been confronted by a really annoyed constable—and to save any further trouble with the "law," we had trailed behind, car stacked high with rugs, in a funeral cortege!!!

A stop we made at Prees Heath and I—with vivid memories of that drear place in war years—visualised that the Heath would still be as dull and uninteresting "as ever it was." We had a cup of char here and then made further progress. The coach moved smoothly and quietly along the leafy lanes, with many overhanging trees. It was a glorious sunny day.

Past Kenilworth Castle, with many cars outside, indicating that it was a day on which many visitors were yearning to look at the old castle. Miles further on we slowed up a little on passing Warwick Castle.

Stratford-on-Avon and then the tall spires of Oxford, and I wished I had been

able to visit this city before my disability came along, but anyway one can also visualise from remembered scenes from the film "A Yank at Oxford." The coach continued on smoothly as ever and still with the hub of friendly conversation—and then a halt was made at High Wycombe. Here the venue was a very lovely old-world house where the proprietors assuredly made sure their goods were of the type required by visitors. To me it was very reminiscent of an old coaching halt from the "tally-ho days" of the stage coach.

Until we reached Hammersmith we had met no traffic jams, but the last few miles in London were the slowest of the journey. When we eventually came out at Knightsbridge, I suddenly remembered the sound I had heard in London a few years ago, in the self-same spot, the "tally-ho" of a coach which sometimes drove along Knightsbridge.

Then we reached the bus depot and I said goodbye to my new-found friends, met my escort, and then thought I had heard the last of any fellow traveller.

But no, this week the Welsh lady found my workshop; she brought with her two visitors from Australia and the niece from the Lake District. She came a second time and brought another overseas visitor, the head of a blind training college in Colombo, Ceylon, and I realised that I have made some new "coach friends." And of the older lady and wee Sally? They, too, have not passed on like ships that pass in the night, for they took the trouble to locate me in the directory and came, one not too-busy afternoon, to see me again.

Maybe my experiences are unusual, but I felt it entirely new, when travelling in England, to find that English people drop that mask of aloofness which they immediately don when entering a railway carriage and which usually means horrible silent travelling. But no wonder coach travelling is becoming so popular in this country, and even if the trip takes less time than did the old stage coach drive from Birkenhead to London, the old trees lining the route are no doubt quietly happy to know that once again ordinary folk like you and me meander (coach or car) along the leafy lanes.

MAUREEN V. LEES,
Birkenhead.

“In Memory”

Private William Henry Conlon, 9th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. H. Conlon, of Lewes; he had moved from Brighton only a week before his death.

Wounded at Ypres in 1915, he came to us the following February, where he trained as a shorthand-typist. He leaves a widow and two children to whom our deep sympathy is offered.

Births

BLACKMORE.—On August 26th, to the wife of P. Blackmore, of Cardiff, a daughter—Nesta Rosalind.

BURNETT.—On October 7th, to the wife of W. Burnett, of Welling, a daughter—Margaret Ann.

GUYLER.—On October 12th, to the wife of A. Guyler, of Grays, a daughter.

NICHOLSON.—On September 26th, to the wife of F. Nicholson, of Beeston, Notts., a daughter—Patricia Ann.

RIPLEY.—On September 22nd, to the wife of F. J. Ripley, of Leatherhead, a daughter.

Death

FOREMAN.—Our deep sympathy goes out to J. Foreman, of Beckenham, whose mother died on September 25th.

★ ★ ★

We have heard with deep regret of the death of Mrs. Finkle, of Sunderland, only six months after the death of her husband.

Young St. Dunstaners

Pat Tuxford has gained his commission in the Royal Air Force.

C. A. Hancock's boy, aged 18, has passed his examination to be a writer in the Royal Navy with 96 per cent. marks.

Marriages

On July 21st, Kathleen Mary Astbury (Saltdean) to Albert Roger Bates.

On September 1st, Joyce Margaret Edwards (Twickenham) to Reginald Prescott.

On September 29th, Muriel Scott (Winsford), to Eric Adkins.

On October 6th, Christopher Lammiman to Betty Silvester.

Liverpool Club

There was a grand “get-together” of the Liverpool and Manchester Clubs on Saturday, September 29th, at the Mitre Hotel, Liverpool, when the Mancunians were the guests of their Liverpool comrades. After an excellent tea we were delightfully entertained by Mr. J. C. Reason and his friends. During the evening a Quiz was held between the Clubs, with Mr. Reason most ably acting as Quiz Master, resulting in a draw of 12 points each. The evening passed all too quickly, and when we reluctantly brought our activities to a close it was unanimously agreed that it had been a great success, and all expressed the hope that there would be many more such happy occasions.

T. MILNER.

Note.—Merseyside St. Dunstaners who have not yet joined the Liverpool Club are heartily invited to do so. We meet fortnightly at the British Legion Sefton Hall, Leece Street, on Saturday afternoons, at 3 p.m. October meetings will be on the 13th and 27th.

Points from Letters

“Some time ago a letter in the REVIEW suggested that we make a presentation to Raymond Glendenning.

I suggest, to commemorate the resumption of football broadcasts, that we christen our mechanical horse at Ovingdean, ‘Raymond’ or ‘Glendenning.’”

H. POLLITT,
Farnworth.

★ ★ ★

“Blindness is a darkness the eye never becomes accustomed to. Deafness is a loneliness the mind never becomes adjusted to. The two together is not a double handicap but a curse.”

GEO. FALLOWFIELD,
Ovingdean.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

DURING the recent Election, a local newspaper which has a very keen instinct for finding controversial copy, published a photograph taken from the front of the platform at my eve-of-poll meeting. The photograph showed a pillar of the Party scratching his ear, a well-known alderman blowing his nose, a popular councillor yawning, and a couple of other important local people apparently asleep. The personalities I have described are fictional rather than actual so that I may avoid libel action from my powerful constituents, but they are illustrative of what the picture showed.

Happily, it was not I who was speaking at the time but a very gallant supporter whose job it was to keep going until I arrived from another meeting.

This reminds us how important it is if you sit on a platform for the purpose of supporting a cause, to enjoy the honour and approve the cause, or at any rate to look as if you are doing so.

It reminds me, in particular, of the outstanding self-sacrifice and signal service rendered by my wife, for during forty meetings, at which I made practically the same speech every time, she sat on the platform apparently enjoying every word as if she had never heard it before, laughing at my poor jokes and applauding the powerful arguments as they came out one by one.

The experience of making the same speech forty times is not only most exhausting, but most unusual; one finds it hard to stay awake oneself. As a relief from the monotony, one tries the effect of changing the order or the emphasis or of throwing a fly over a real or imaginary opponent to see if he will rise to it, in the hope of introducing a bit of novelty or a new view. Never have I been so impressed by the old adage that a prophet is not without honour save in his own country as when I went to ten other constituencies and found that the same speech seemed to be made twice as well and to go down four times better or a quarter as badly.

A sore throat tests the voice terribly at election time, but I found some relief by relying on a trick I have learned from long experience, namely, to emphasise the consonants which do not use the larynx so much and add greatly to intelligibility.

I am left with the reflection that we all talk a good deal of nonsense at election time, but that it is a better way of changing our rulers than that used in Hitler's Germany, South America, or some day, perhaps, behind the Iron Curtain.

Since I last wrote I have not only fought an election but have spent twenty days in South Africa attending to my private business. While there I met a number of St. Dunstaners as I passed through the big centres and gave them our best wishes and have brought back theirs. Apart from this brief interlude, two rides on a Basuto pony, and one game of bridge, I did nothing but work at very high pressure and for very long hours, so that it was something of a relief to get into an aeroplane where nobody could bother you and fly back for the election.

Unfortunately, however, our plane was delayed at Lydda for twenty-seven hours owing to a deficient magneto. If ever any reader is offered a job at Lydda at double his present pay, he should think twice before accepting it. I do not recommend this place, though I am bound to say that the British Charge d'Affaires and his wife took us to his home at Tel Aviv, and an American Air Attaché offered to fly us to Cyprus or Athens. I am sure Cyprus or Athens would have been preferable to Lydda, but I was due to fight an election in Morecambe and Lonsdale so that his generous impulse had to go unrewarded. In retrospect, I take a kindlier view of Lydda now, which goes to show that if you are a happy sort of chap or perhaps just an ordinary chap, you tend to remember the jokes and the fun rather than the heat and sweat; isn't this lucky?

IAN FRASER.

"Have a Go" Broadcast

The recording of a special St. Dunstan's London Club programme of Wilfred Pickles' "Have a Go," was made at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, on 21st November, when the audience of 500 comprised London and District St. Dunstaners, a party from Ovingdean, and members of the staff. Those taking part in the programme were all St. Dunstaners, and the transmission date of the recording—the actual broadcast—will be on 19th December in the Light Programme from 9.30-10 p.m.

The General Election

Sir Ian Returned Again

St. Dunstaners all over the country, whatever their political party, will congratulate Sir Ian Fraser upon his re-election to Parliament as Conservative Member for Morecambe and Lonsdale. Sir Ian not only increased his previous majority by 2,206 but secured the greatest majority in the history of the constituency.

A Tribute to Gwennie

Gwennie Obern sang at the Remembrance Festival at the well-known Brangwyn Hall, Swansea, before a great audience. Mr. J. C. Whitmarsh, of Swansea, who was a member of that audience, has sent the following letter to Sir Ian Fraser:

"I feel sure I voice the feelings of all who were there that the very generous applause for her three solos was not from sentiment or pity for disability, but a loving joy to hear such lovely and feeling singing; what a wonderful triumph over adversity on her part; what a glorious tribute for St. Dunstan's for all the care and attention it must have bestowed upon her . . . I felt I had to write and salute her and all St. Dunstaners and the wonderful work of this fine organisation."

Road Crossings at Headquarters

The two Belisha crossings by the Marylebone Road entrance to Edgware Road (Metropolitan and Inner Circle) Station have been abolished and St. Dunstaners and their escorts using this entrance when visiting Headquarters are advised that they should now turn right on leaving the station and continue to the junction of Chapel Street and Marylebone Road, where two crossings of the new "zebra" type have been established; Headquarters building is then to the left and on the opposite side of Harcourt Street a few yards away.

Matron Pain

The Chairman, in his Notes in the October issue of the REVIEW, referred to the forthcoming retirement of Miss Dorothy Pain as Matron of St. Dunstan's, and many St. Dunstaners have expressed a wish to subscribe to a presentation to her.

Mr. Askew has offered to act as Honorary Treasurer of the Fund, and St. Dunstaners who desire to associate themselves with the presentation should send their subscriptions to him at 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1.

Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Services

On the morning of December 8th, a party of St. Dunstaners will go to Hampstead Cemetery from Headquarters to place a wreath upon Sir Arthur's grave. Subscriptions of not more than one shilling towards the wreath should be sent to Mr. Askew, at 1 South Audley Street.

Services will this year be held on Sunday, December 9th, at Ovingdean Chapel (11.30 a.m.) and at West House, Brighton (5 p.m.). Sir Neville Pearson and Sir Ian Fraser will attend both Services.

We shall be pleased to see any St. Dunstaner who can get along to either Service.

London Club Notes

The Annual General Meeting of the London Club will be held on January 18th, 1952, at 7.30 p.m., at the Club.

Bridge

St. Dunstan's Bridge Club held their 4th Bridge Congress at Ovingdean on November 3rd and 4th, and Mr. A. E. Field came with us from London to act as our Tournament Director, and an excellent job he made of the whole week-end.

There were two principal events. The Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Cup (teams of four) was won by Messrs. Gover, Nuyens, Owen and Simmons, and the runners-up were Messrs. Caldwell, Delany and Fisher and Blodwyn. The other event (pairs), for the Sir Arthur Pearson Cup, was won by Gover and Nuyens, with Winter and Thompson as runners-up. In the pairs Bridge Drive on Saturday morning the prizes went to Messrs. Miller, Rhodes, Gover, Nuyens, Fleming, Winter, Wylie and Thompson.

Another Bridge Drive was held on Sunday morning for those not in the final of the "Pairs" Cup, and the winners this time were Blodwyn and Messrs. Fisher, Cook, Jackson, Rhodes, Miller, Clare and Wiltshire. Our old friend, Drummer, is not allowed to play cards these days by doctor's orders.

Drummer sat by one of the tables and nobody knew better than he at the end of the session which contracts should have been made or lost.

At 6 p.m. on Sunday our Tournament Director announced the winners and Matron Pain presented the prizes, after which Drummer thanked Matron and the staff for their efforts on our behalf, and then presented Matron with some flowers.

H. GOVER.

Indoor Section

On October 26th we had a visit from the Thames River Police, who brought a party of officers and their wives.

Cribbage, dominoes and darts were played, and the club team put up a good show; our visitors were delighted with the evening's entertainment. Whilst St. Dunstaners were playing against the men in blue, our wives were also pairing up for Whist with the ladies of the police.

Everyone was occupied and a pleasant evening was spent by one and all.

CHARLES J. WALKER.
(Indoor Section).

Outdoor Section

The Five Miles handicap was held on October 20th. The weather, which had been unsettled, brightened up for the duration of the race. Mr. Lloyds, Deputy Secretary of St. Dunstan's, was the starter and an interested spectator of a very fine race, only seven minutes covering the nine competitors; this would have been less had Pat Cryan been training more regularly.

The handicap was a great surprise, owing to Stan Tutton's remarkable improvement; this should encourage new recruits to our section, as it is only by regular training, with capable and patient escorts, that benefit and enjoyment can be obtained from this form of exercise, so do not forget Tuesday evening, The Holme House, Bedford College, Inner Circle, Regent's Park.

Owing to clashes with Open Club fixtures, our own programme has been revised, the new dates being:

Dec. 1—Regent's Park, 6 miles.

Jan. 26—Regent's Park, 7 miles.

Feb. 23—Regent's Park, 10 miles.

Mar. 22—Regent's Park, 12 miles.

Apr. 19—Wembley, 15 miles.

5 Miles Handicap Results

<i>Order of finish</i>		<i>Hcp. pos.</i>	<i>H'cp. time</i>	<i>Hcp.</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. T. Gaygan	...	7	44.25	scr.	44.25
2. C. Williamson	...	4	43.47	1.00	44.47
3. W. Miller	...	2	43.33	2.05	45.38
4. A. Brown	...	6	44.24	2.10	46.34
5. A. Bradley	...	4	43.47	3.50	47.37
6. T. Denmead	...	8	45.37	3.55	49.32
7. S. Tutton	...	1	40.48	9.35	50.23
8. C. Stafford	...	3	43.42	6.50	50.32
9. P. Cryan	...	9	46.24	5.10	51.34

Handicap Points position

S. Tutton	20 points	A. Brown	15 points
W. Miller	19	T. Gaygan	14
C. Stafford	18	T. Denmead	13
C. Williamson	17	P. Cryan	12
A. Bradley	17		

We hope that all walkers will turn out for December 1st, so send in your entries at once. Will all provincial clubs send in their entries for the All England Championship by Christmas to the London Club.

T. GAYGAN.

Author

H. T. Norton Christal, who is a master at King William's College, Isle of Man, is the author of a booklet, "Rugby Football for Young Schoolboys," which has just been published. Mr. Christal was himself an outstanding centre three-quarter for Burton-on-Trent, and a county player.

St. Dunstan's (S.A.) Review

Another copy of St. Dunstan's Review, South Africa, has arrived and from it we are glad to find news of old friends.

Bob Owen has arrived in Pietermaritzburg to take up an appointment in the Physiotherapy Department of Grays Hospital.

Jim Ellis writes on "Artificial Eyes," and Bill Riley on "A Blind Date." There is also an article on "Hints and Tips." It is anonymous but do we perceive the hidden hand of Jim Ellis here also?

Here are some extracts:—

Most St. Dunstaners, whatever their occupation, like to be able to indulge in some form of handicraft. Most men like pottering about, repairing the kitchen chair, or fixing a wobbly shelf. Having only one hand, I have wrestled for a long time with the problem of knocking in a nail. I have tried the usual method; I have tried all sorts of dodges, such as holding the nail upright and in the correct place by means of a blob of plasticine, and now I have just had a brain-wave which has solved this problem for me for all time.

I have two perfect squares of fairly hard steel measuring about one and a quarter inches square by a quarter-inch thick, and they are both highly magnetised. I think they come from some component part of a wireless loudspeaker. I place the nail against the edge of one of these metal plates where it is held in position. There is an added advantage, for not only does the magnet support the nail but, because the plate is perfectly square all round, by standing the nail in a corner made by putting the two plates alongside each other, or alternatively, by standing the nail against one of the corner edges, it ensures that the nail is perfectly upright and square. When positioning a large nail this square magnet can be stood on its edge with the nail stuck to its vertical edge. I should imagine that almost any firm of electrical engineers could supply such magnetised plates.

I have found the use of strong rubber elastic invaluable in fixing up useful little gadgets. For instance, a rubber band fitting fairly tightly over about a yard of curtain rod makes a very handy measuring stick. Even with only one hand it is quite easy to push this band up and down the rod when making a comparative measurement, where it stays firmly in place until it is again shifted.

Talking Book Library

Outlandish October

"The Golden Salamander" is outlandish in a geographical sense, with a French North African setting. The other book released this month, "Michael's Wife," is plain, unadulterated psychiatry, which might be read as comedy, tragedy, a bit of both, or simply dismissed as utter "bull." Both books make averagely good reading, but the second is as much an acquired taste as "country gin." Now to make a brave attempt at a few details:—

"The Golden Salamander," by V. Caning, reader Lionel Marson, concerns a small town in French North Africa, at which a cargo of art treasures, on their way out to Italy during the war, was washed up and salvaged. The man sent out by a London museum to repack the boodle and supervise its transportation to London runs foul of a well-organised gun-running gang. Everything is packed and ready to go, and the Englishman, having a day to spare, is invited to a colossal shoot. He hates it when the majority of the guns treat him as the quarry, and thereafter follows tense excitement. *Une jolie fille* co-stars with this professorial Hannay. Undoubtedly this is the gem of the two!

"Michael's Wife," by Gilbert Frankau, reader Lionel Marson, is a yarn of two egos, Michael, an ex-soldier and columnist, and Frances, his wife, whose nerves break down under the London blitz. A gifted psychiatrist, a medico who has been struck off the rolls, brings about a great cure over a long period of time, which completely exhausts Michael. Eventually Michael realises he too should see a "trick cyclist," but rather than face it he chooses to cure himself. I choose the last of my four alternatives given above to describe this book, but it certainly has its merits.

Excuse my vulgar volubility!

"NELSON."

Birmingham Club

There was a very good attendance at the Club meeting on October 14th, when the opportunity was taken of making a presentation to Miss Gough—a beautiful bouquet of flowers and a fireside chair. Messrs. Shakspeare, New and Kibbler were among those who spoke.

Ovingdean Notes

Two debates were held at Ovingdean during October, and were well attended.

The general interest in the General Election was as keen as in 1950, and again similar arrangements were put in hand for the local candidates to visit the Centre and give an election talk. This time it was a fight between Labour and Conservative, as there was no Liberal candidate. Both talks were very well attended, and there were many questions put to both Mr. Lewis Cohen (Labour) and Mr. Howard Johnson (Conservative) by the audience. On polling day work was carried out to the accompaniment of the B.B.C. election results, and when we heard of the re-election to Parliament of Sir Ian Fraser, a telegram of congratulations was sent to him.

Mr. Howard Johnson, who was re-elected a Member of Parliament for our constituency here, expressed the hope at the time of his election talk at Ovingdean, that he might again be able to come to the Centre when the election was all over, and we are hoping that he will be able to do this.

Our other visitors to Ovingdean during the month were the Mayor and Mayoress of Worthing (Councillor and Mrs. Framp-ton). They showed an interest as great as the previous Mayor (Alderman Green) who visited us during his term of office. Later in the month we received another party of girls from the Bedewell School, Eastbourne. This school has for some time now been bringing a party of girls to visit the Training Centre each term, and on almost each occasion they have come they have been extremely kind, and brought along parcels of fruit and chocolates for the sick St. Dunstaners. We have particularly appreciated this kind gesture, knowing how much it must have meant to these schoolgirls to part with some of their precious sweets ration.

At the beginning of November, the Sussex Handicraft Exhibition was held at the Corn Exchange, Brighton, in aid of the East Sussex Association for the Care of Cripples. St. Dunstan's, in common with the N.I.B. and many other Associations in Brighton, organised a display and stall, and, in addition, two third prizes for weaving exhibits were won by two St. Dunstaners. They were R. J. Williams (scarf) and J. Robson (curtains).

Legion War Pensions Campaign Opens

Sir Ian Fraser, speaking at the first public meeting of the British Legion national war pensions campaign, at Leeds, on November 19th, said:—

"There are many ex-Servicemen's widows who get less from the Ministry of Pensions for the loss of their bread-winner than destitute women get from National Assistance.

"Out of a total of 706,000 war pensioners—about half from each war—the Ministry of Pensions has in recent years dealt reasonably by 41,000.

"These are the most severely disabled whose compensation has been raised by special allowances until, in some cases, it is about double what it was before the war. For the rest, however, rises varying from 12½ per cent. to 75 per cent. have been made, and we consider this grossly inadequate. We claim that all the partial pensioners should also have had their compensation adjusted to the present deteriorated value of the pound.

"In our view the war pension should continue to be regarded as compensation for loss of bodily function rather than as a payment subject to an employability or needs test.

"The disabled man is happiest when working, and it discourages him to feel that the more he does for himself to overcome his disability the less he gets from the State.

"The Legion claims that the basic pension should be doubled."

R.A.O.B.

On Tuesday, October 16th, the Brethren of the Star of the East and Queen Alexandra Lodges made a presentation of an R.A.O.B. brooch and silk scarf to Mrs. Dixon, who is well known to many St. Dunstaners, as a mark of appreciation and esteem for the untiring and unselfish devotion given to Brother James Jackson, R.O.H., P.P.K.C., over the past eleven years; a service which has enabled Brother Jackson, who is also a St. Dunstaner, to attend both Lodges and other functions regularly.

The Officers of this Lodge, and also of the Queen Alexandra Lodge (which meets at 11 a.m. on Sunday mornings at the Prince George Inn, Trafalgar Street, Brighton) extend a warm welcome to any St. Dunstaners who may be Members of the Order.

W. R. DIXON, *Secretary*.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Re the handicap of blindness and deafness—there's nothing so bad but what might have been worse. We might have lost sense of smell and taste, and what a shock if someone says we are drinking lemonade instead of cider!

Yours etc.,
"DAISY" BELL.

Newcastle-on-Tyne.

DEAR EDITOR,

In view of the splendid stand taken by the British Legion on the question of disablement pensions, I think it is the duty of all St. Dunstaners to write to their M.P.s asking for their support, no matter what their party. I am doing so and I think that we should make all of them aware of our position. This supplementary allowance which is subject to a means test is not fair. Pension or compensation for total disablement should bear some relation to loss sustained, and £2 5s. per week is not adequate and is certainly not commensurate with the vastly increased earning power to-day. The man who is doing my job in civilian life is getting £18 per week (I was an art colour printer when I was called to the Colours).

Now what about it, chaps? Let's make a united effort.

Yours faithfully,
W. LOWINGS.

Blackpool Notes

Before the Blackpool Home closed on September 13th for the usual break, a party of St. Dunstaners, with wives and escorts, went for a drive to view the famous Blackpool illuminations. "Another lovely memory," summed up one St. Dunstaner, W. Jordan, who is deaf as well as blind.

When the Home reopened on October 15th, and as there were a number of new men and new escorts, there was a drive for tea at Scorton, returning by way of the Boot and Shoe, and through the illuminations.

I have had a number of enquiries about my elephants. It all began many years ago when Percy Holmes presented me with one. That one has now become two hundred and sixty and they have come, many of them from St. Dunstaners, from all corners of the globe. They have even been mentioned twice in the Press! I treasure these not as elephants but as personal reminders of the people who sent them.

B. V-D.

News from all Quarters

On Wednesday, October 31st, Mr. Askew went to Buckingham Palace, where he was invested with the Insignia of the Order of C.B.E. by the Duke of Gloucester, acting for His Majesty the King.

★ ★ ★

Her Majesty the Queen spoke to J. Laffey, of Idle, when she visited the Regimental Old Comrades' Association of the Duke of York's Light Infantry at Strensall Camp, Yorkshire.

★ ★ ★

Our St. Dunstaner, H. H. Burnett, of Enfield, is a blood donor and he has been awarded the gold badge which is only awarded to those who have given fifty donations and over.

★ ★ ★

Canon Walter Gilbert Speight, until recently at Tinnevely, has been appointed Vicar of Braunston in Rutlandshire.

★ ★ ★

A. W. Back, of Shaldon, won second prize for a No. 3 mat at the Show of the Bristol Guild of Blind Gardeners.

★ ★ ★

W. C. Carlton, of Morecambe, has successfully shown his collie dog at the local Show.

Remembrance, 1951

St. Dunstaners were among the vast audiences at the Royal Albert Hall on the afternoon and evening of Saturday, November 10th, for the Festival of Remembrance. Sir Ian Fraser, President of the Legion, received Her Majesty the Queen and Princess Margaret at the evening ceremony.

On the morning of Remembrance Sunday, a party of St. Dunstaners with their escorts, who included Mr. Mackay and Mr. Lale, marched to the Cenotaph with other ex-Service organisations, headed by the British Legion; a wreath was laid on behalf of the war-blinded Service men and women of the Empire.

At Blackpool a service of Remembrance was conducted at the Home by the Rev. C. N. Wardle-Harpur; Matron Vaughan-Davies had previously placed a cross of Remembrance on the graves of St. Dunstaners in Blackpool cemeteries.

St. Dunstaners from West House and Ovingdean joined in the march to the cenotaph at Brighton, where a wreath was placed from St. Dunstan's men throughout the world.

Fun with the Draught and Chess Boards

While you are waiting for somebody to turn up to give you a game, why not try one or both of these exercises?

The first is for the Draughts player. Place eight draughts on the board in such a way that no two are on the same line either vertically, horizontally or diagonally.

The second is for the Chess player. Place a knight on the board and ultimately move to every square in the correct manner of the knight move, no square to be occupied twice. It will be advisable to have a supply of "markers" ready, such as buttons for the sunken and folded match-sticks for the raised squares. One good point is that you can drop it and take up again some other time; if you do this make sure that the markers stay put, just leave the knight standing where you left off.

There are many ways of doing it; can you find one way?

No doubt other St. Dunstaners may know of similar exercises that will give pleasure and interest to others; send them in!

H. A. HAMMETT.

National Egg Laying Tests

Result of Final Period of 12 weeks, 1951

	Test Score
1. Jackson, G. C.	1228
2. Holmes, P.	1184
3. Clarke, T.	1180
4. Gregory, T. D.	1116
5. Jarvis, A.	1098
6. Woodcock, W. J.	1081
7. Smith, W. Alan	826
8. Taylor, T.	750

Average per bird, 204.99

The hen house average for St. Dunstan's Section is 201.5, compared with 197.3 for the whole test.

Prize Presentation

1st position—

G. C. Jackson, Cup, silver gilt medal, £5.

2nd position and P.A.G.B. 2nd—

P. Holmes, Silver medal, £3 and £2.

3rd position and P.A.G.B. 1st—

T. Clarke, Bronze medal, £2 and £3.

Winter period—

W. J. Woodcock, Silver Medal.

Best Individual—

A. Jarvis, Cup.

Walter Bradley—

T. D. Gregory, £2.

Births

BRIGGS.—on November 2nd, to the wife of H. Briggs, of Birkdale, near Southport, a daughter—Elizabeth Jane.

MENDHAM.—On October 21st, to the wife of Roy Mendham, of Buckhurst Hill, a daughter.

OSTLE.—On October 17th, to the wife of I. Ostle, of Cockermouth, a daughter—Christine Judith.

ROWE.—On October 10th, to the wife of Eric Rowe, of Minehead, a second son—Stephen Michael.

WILLIAMS (*nee* GOULD).—On October 20th, to Eileen Williams (*nee* Gould), a son—Terence.

Marriages

PREECE—AUSTIN.—In October, Ralph Preece, of Romford, to Miss Joyce Austin.

TYBINSKI—GRZYL.—Micheal Tybinski, of Ipswich, to Miss Maria Grzyl.

Grandfathers

E. M. Brockie, of Torphins; H. Maher, London, S.E.1.

Young St. Dunstaners

Joyce Watson (Manor Park) has received her Grade 7 certificate from the Royal School of Music.

Alan Leigh has been awarded a scholarship to Warrington Botelior Grammar School.

David Hughes (Selsdon) did well in the School Certificate examination, passing in six subjects.

John Floyd has gained a 2nd Class General B.A. with a special qualification in German at Exeter University.

Stanley Loram has qualified as Professor of English at the Naval College in Athens. He was recently presented to the King of the Hellenes.

J. Shread's son is now a fully qualified electrical engineer, having obtained his final National Certificate.

Marriages

On Easter Saturday, Leonard Bush to Miss Mary Brooke.

On October 20th, Margaret Dakin to Kenneth Jackson.

On August 18th, Sylvia Ashe to Antony Duffield.

Silver Wedding

Mrs. and Mrs. T. Gregory, of Worting, near Basingstoke, November 1st. Congratulations.

“In Memory”

Pioneer Dennis Power, *Royal Engineers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Dennis Power, of Brixton. He was seventy-one.

He was discharged from the Army in February, 1917, but he did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1929, when he trained in basket-making. He was a most conscientious craftsman and it was only because of his ill-health that he reluctantly gave up.

The funeral took place at Camberwell and a wreath of poppies from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the flowers.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

Private George Brooks, *2nd Borderers*

With deep regret we record the sudden death at Blackpool of George Brooks, of Haywards Heath, at the age of fifty-nine.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1916, immediately upon his discharge from the Army, when he trained in rugs and mat-making, but for some years now had been a shopkeeper.

He died very suddenly on November 7th while on a visit to Blackpool.

The funeral took place at Carleton Cemetery, Blackpool. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack and among the many wreaths were those from the Blackpool Home and from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades. After the ceremony the mourners returned to the Blackpool Home.

He leaves a widow and grown-up daughter to whom our very sincere sympathy is extended.

Private Robert Damerall, *Labour Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of Robert Damerall, of Brighton, a St. Dunstaner who came to us only in October, 1950, although he had served in the first World War.

Owing to his age and health, he did no training but became a resident at West House, and left in June of this year upon his marriage. He became very ill, however, and returned to St. Dunstan's, where he died on October 11th.

The funeral took place from St. Dunstan's and many of Bob's friends attended. A wreath from Sir Ian was among the many flowers.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Damerall in her sad loss after such brief happiness.

Private Edward Penny, *Essex Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of E. Penny, of Hove. He was nearly fifty-three.

He was discharged from the Service in January, 1919, but did not come under St. Dunstan's care until July, 1947. He was trained as a basket-maker but his health prevented him from doing a great deal of work. His condition steadily grew worse and he passed away on November 9th.

Wreaths from his Brighton friends, and from Sir Ian Fraser, were among the flowers at the funeral, at which Ovingdean was represented by Miss. Taylor.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Penny.

Sydney Weston, *South Staffordshire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of S. Weston, of Walsall.

Although he suffered as the result of gassing received in the first World War, he did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1948. He was unable to receive training on account of his health, and before his death, on September 19th he had given up his job many months before. Although he was only with us for a short time, he had made many friends among St. Dunstaners in his area, and Messrs. G. T. Shaw and T. North were among those attending the funeral. A wreath from the Chairman was among the flowers.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife.

Private George James, *6th Leicestershire Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of G. James, of Barrow-upon-Soar.

Enlisting on October 25th, 1916, he was wounded in France the following year and came to us in April, 1918, where he trained as a poultry farmer and mat-maker. He carried on as a poultry farmer right up to the time of his admission to hospital, where he died on October 7th.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a wreath of poppies from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends.

We extend our deep sympathy to his sister, who has been with him since he was four years old, and to his niece who lived with him.

Gunner Frank Shaw Weedall, *Royal Field Artillery*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of F. S. Weedall, of Liverpool.

He enlisted in April, 1915, and was discharged in 1917, but he did not come to us with damaged sight until 1926. He was trained as a joiner and carried on this work for a great number of years. For some time before his death, however, he had been at our Blackpool and Brighton Homes, and in hospital. He passed away at his own home on October 24th.

A wreath from the Chairman was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his family.

Regimental Sergeant Major W. Farnell, *D.C.M., 14th Canadians*

We have just heard, with deep regret, of the death some months ago of W. Farnell, of Toronto, Canada.

He was wounded at Cambrai in 1918 and came to us in December of that year. He trained as a joiner and netter and later had a business in Canada. He visited England in 1922. He took a keen interest in Canadian local government affairs but news of him in recent years had been very scant.

Our very sincere sympathy goes out to his widow.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

IT was on December 9th, 1921, that the late Sir Arthur Pearson, BT., G.B.E., died at the age of fifty-five. This was thirty years ago. A deputation placed a wreath on his grave in Hampstead Cemetery and Memorial Services were held at Ovingdean and West House. Thus we remembered.

Addressing the Memorial Service, I said that we remembered the love of humanity which prompted the initiation of the work of St. Dunstan's and the genius which set it upon such strong foundations. Those St. Dunstaners who were his contemporaries will remember also the buoyant spirit, the quick temperament, the capacity for decision, and the warm heart.

I should like to recall the debt which St. Dunstan's owes to his widow, Lady Arthur Pearson, for her long and devoted service as our President, and to his son, Sir Neville Pearson, who is now our President, for his diligent, capable and understanding work on our Council and committees through all these years.

Since many St. Dunstaners never met Sir Arthur Pearson, I have asked the Editor to print, in another column, a brief biographical note. But so far as they are concerned, his monument is in the hearts of St. Dunstaners, and in the work of the organisation that still goes on.

What have we done in these thirty years? The main principle of ready and sympathetic help, and particularly of the encouragement of self-help which he inculcated has dominated our counsels. The view that blindness was a handicap and not an affliction, and that it could be overcome or mitigated to a large extent by careful training and the right spirit, and a continuing self-discipline, which was also one of his lessons, is still our guide. I think it may truly be said that the spirit of St. Dunstan's to-day is very much the same as it was in the earlier years, though it may be deeper and richer because of the years during which it has had time to mature. Perhaps the most notable achievement of St. Dunstan's has been to absorb into its ranks a whole new generation of young men blinded in the Second World War, and to make them truly St. Dunstaners irrespective of the considerable span of life that separates them from the older generation.

If the spirit of St. Dunstan's is the same, its material resources and its capacity for help in a great variety of ways has largely been increased. In Sir Arthur's day St. Dunstan's did more than any other organisation of its kind to care for every interest of its members. It still does this, but much progress has been made in the world outside us, and St. Dunstan's still leads the way. Many new occupations for blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen, whereby

they may earn their living or contribute towards a living or occupy their time, have been taught and practised with success. Many diverse and interesting new jobs have been found and many inventions have contributed towards work or play.

When I joined St. Dunstan's in 1916, and after I had passed through a year of training in most of the occupations which were available, I became the head of the after-care organisation, and we built this up all over the country to take care of the interests of those who had passed through training and were settled in their own homes. The services of the After-Care Department, or Welfare Department, as it is now called, have been greatly extended, covering a whole host of new ways of helping and advising. There is, for example, the Talking Book and wireless, neither of which were available in 1921. Older members of the staff who rendered yeoman pioneer service have passed on, but we are still blessed with a staff who give to us, whether it is at Headquarters or at the Homes or in the field, great devotion and service.

St. Dunstan's itself has spread all over the world, with its branches and affiliations in all the great Dominions, but it has done more than this, for the stimulation of interest in the well-being of blind people and in their capabilities, first emphasised and advertised by Sir Arthur Pearson, has been a great factor in developing work for the civilian blind as a whole in many countries within the British Commonwealth and outside it, and a number of St. Dunstaners have taken a leading part in guiding these enterprises. When I followed Sir Arthur Pearson as Chairman of St. Dunstan's, I was twenty-four and was just entering upon the threshold of public life. I have been asking myself, as I have been writing, these Notes, what I think about the last thirty years. I think of thousands of St. Dunstaners and their families in their homes all over the British world, pursuing their various professions, callings and occupations, bringing up their families, and making their own contribution to the work and character of their community and generation. I think of their loyalty to St. Dunstan's, and of the great contribution each has made to the world-wide reputation of our organisation. Each has indeed written his own page in the history of St. Dunstan's as a whole. I think of those who have made great successes as the world judges these matters, and of those who have plodded quietly along, setting a good example. I think particularly of those who are getting old, or who have always been sick or so grievously wounded that they could not do very much. They also serve, and the world is the richer for their patient and philosophical and courageous meeting of the blows of fate. I think of the wives who have cared for their men and their families, "seen" for them, and often done the work of more than one person, and of the many children, some of whom served in the second war, helping to carry on the patriotic tradition of their fathers.

My wife was with me at the beginning, for she was working at St. Dunstan's before we met and married, and she and I think often of the early days and of the years that have passed.

At this time of Christmas my heart warms to our many thousands of St. Dunstan's friends in almost every village of Britain, and every province or district of our widespread Empire, and we send a message of affectionate greeting and good wishes for peace and contentment in the New Year.

IAN FRASER.

St. Dunstan's on the Air

The popular record programme, "Family Favourites," will be broadcast from the Ovingdean Home on Boxing Day in the Light Programme from 4.30—5.30 p.m.

★ ★ ★

The "Have a Go" recording at the London Club will not only be broadcast in the Light Programme between 9.30 and 10 p.m. on December 19th, but also in the North Regional programme from 6.30—7 p.m. on December 20th, and in the Light Programme on December 23rd from 10.30—11 a.m.

Golden Wedding

Congratulations to Captain William Appleby, O.B.E., and Mrs. Appleby, who on Sunday, November 25th, celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary.

Presented

At the November Exhibition of Lord Roberts' Workshops, R. Wylie, who represented St. Dunstan's there, was presented to Her Majesty the Queen, to Queen Mary, to the Duchess of Gloucester, and the Duchess of Kent. An interview with him was also broadcast in Woman's Hour.

London Club Notes

The Committee of the London Club wish all members a very happy Christmas and lots of good luck in 1952.

The Annual General Meeting of the London Club will be held at Headquarters on January 18th, 1952, at 7.30 p.m.

It is hoped that all members of the Club will make a special effort to attend.

On November 21st the Club took part in the Wilfred Pickles' "Have a Go" programme. A jolly good evening!

On December 10th, at the Tavistock Restaurant, the Committee were privileged to entertain all those grand people who do so much to help us. Four St. Dunstaners were the entertainers to a very appreciative audience.

Bridge Section

The 14th Annual General Meeting of St. Dunstan's Bridge Club took place at Headquarters on Saturday, December 8th, and was ably presided over by our very good friend, Mr. W. G. Askew, C.B.E.

Before the afternoon's business was proceeded with, the Chairman suggested that those present should stand in silence for one minute to pay tribute to the memory of our late Chief, Sir Arthur Pearson.

The subscription for the ensuing year remains at five shillings; members will receive a full report of the meeting in due course. The committee for 1952 was elected as follows: Messrs. H. Gover (Capt. Secretary), S. H. Webster (Treasurer), N. Downs (Liaison), R. P. Coles and F. Winter. S. H. W.

As the REVIEW goes to press, Paul Nuyens' team has won one match, drawn one and lost two, in the London Business Houses' League, and Jock Brown's team has drawn one and lost three.

Indoor Section

The results of the finals for the Sir Arthur Pearson Games Competitions, held at Ovingdean on November 17th, are:—

Cribbage:

Winner	H. Dickenson	Liverpool
Runner-up	J. Gill	Manchester

Dominoes:

Winner	L. Jackson	Liverpool
Runner-up	J. Maxiecuno	Manchester

Darts T.B.:

Winner	E. Edwards	London
Runner-up	T. Rosewarne	Manchester

Darts S.S.:

Winner	J. Moseley	Ovingdean
Runner-up	J. Halsall	Liverpool

Darts Team:

Winners

W. Bishop	
C. Williamson	
Ed. Edwards	London
A. Needham	

Runners-up

Manchester

Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Whist Trophy:

Winner

D. Edwards London

On November 30th we had a party of visitors from the Women's Section, Conservative Club, Dartford, who played St. Dunstan's Club at darts, whist, crib and dominoes. Everyone was engaged in one or other of these games, and we once again spent a very happy evening. Our visitors were delighted and hope to meet us on another occasion.

On December 3rd we visited the Thames Police, where our Darts Team won hands down. CHARLES J. WALKER.

Institute of Magicians.—Madam Zomah and the St. Dunstan's Section of the Institute of Magicians wish all Club members a very happy Christmas.

Outdoor Section

A sunny afternoon greeted the 6 miles handicap walk on December 1st, and the field of nine which started made amends for lack of numbers by enthusiasm and high standard of performance. Jack Crump, A.A.A., who started the race and presented the prizes, congratulated all concerned on their efforts and the close handicap finish, two minutes covering nine men and three tying for fourth place makes the handicapper's job a tricky one. The next race is the All-England Championship on January 26th, Regent's Park, 2.30 p.m. Entries early please, and plenty of them, to Headquarters.

Order of finish	Act. Time	All. scr.	Hcp. Time	Hcp. pos.
T. Gaygan ...	52.45	scr.	52.45	4
C. Williamson ...	53.25	0.40	52.45	4
W. Miller ...	54.25	1.30	52.55	7
A. Brown ...	55.25	2.40	52.45	4
A. Bradley ...	57.25	3.55	53.30	9
S. Tutton ...	58.40	7.10	51.30	1
C. Stafford ...	59.07	7.25	51.42	2
T. Denmead ...	59.29	6.05	53.24	8
P. Cryan ...	61.05	8.35	52.30	3

Handicap—Prizewinners

1. S. Tutton.
2. C. Stafford.
3. P. Cryan.
Fastest loser, T. Gaygan.

Handicap Points:

S. Tutton ...	40	T. Gaygan ...	31
C. Stafford ...	37	P. Cryan ...	30
C. Williamson ...	34	A. Bradley ...	29
W. Miller ...	33	T. Denmead ...	26
A. Brown ...	32		

T. GAYGAN.

St. Dunstaners Have a Go

If you have listened to the "Have a Go" broadcast from the London Club, you will know what a grand show it was. If you did not listen, you will like to know who took part.

From a "short list" of some thirty names, Wilfred Pickles selected Messrs. Tom Daborn, Tommy Gaygan, Bill Lacey, and John Mudge, and Miss Beryl Sleigh. Bill Lacey brought down the house with his song, and Beryl charmed everybody with a lovely Hebridean song. Tommy was his own grand self, and John Mudge and Tom Daborn were magnificent with their quiet but assured answers. John won the jackpot. Altogether, a wonderful advertisement for St. Dunstan's.

It's All Done by Mirrors

We arrived at the hall, thirty of us, all our forms duly filled in, all the questions answered, and now came the ordeal; we were to meet the men who mattered.

Suddenly a hush, then a voice, loud and clear: "When your name is called, come to the table and just talk. Don't be nervous, just keep talking."

First one name, then another. Would my name never come? Be still, oh those fluttering butterflies in my tummy.

Yes, yes, that's my name. I shuffle forward. A cheery voice, and then come the questions. I talk, I talk, I talk; my inquisitor hardly gets a chance, but suddenly he does get in. "Right-oh, I'll take you to see the Chief later." I return to my little crowd desirous of nothing but the chance to crawl away, but the relentless hands of the clock creep round.

Others of my friends have had the summons. Good, I'm not going to be called. It's all over.

But no, suddenly a hand grips my arm and a voice hisses "Come along, down the stairs." I crawl down those stairs, through a door, and a cheerful voice says, "Good evening, take a seat." It all starts again. I repeat my answers, I enlarge, I give more details, I go on talking. I try to sound unperturbed. Then: "splendid. Say this. Do that. Above all, remember you'll be fine."

Again I wait, this time among only a few. Together we chatter and laugh—harsh, raucous laughs, then the summons again.

We stand in a little forlorn line, all our

voices still, the butterflies fairly tearing around our innards. Then through a door, to face a muttering, buzzing throng.

Through the maze of sound and hum of voices, I suddenly find myself standing there. It is me talking. I seem to be hearing myself from somewhere outside myself. Nothing really registers until a kindly voice, which has apparently given me confidence to go through the final inquisition, says in tones familiar to you all, "Give him the money, Barney." It's over. I've had a go. "JACK POTTS."

Yorks v. Lancs

When Wilfred Pickles said to me in his broad Yorks

"How do thee?"

Wheer's tha cum fra. What's thi name?

Wheer's tha bin and are tha lame?

Are tha coorting . . . Are tha wed? "

He druv me off me blooming yead.

Hey; Wait a minit, Wilf and Barney,

Aw'm not blest wit' gift o't blarney,

Aw've just cum fra Lancasheer,

Ever yeard of Wigan pier?

Makes thee laugh? Well, 'ere's a word

'll rile thee . . .

Old Trafford!

Neaow then, Wilfred, mind thysen,

This 'ere's Wars o't Roses ower agen.

But when it comes to Britain's pride,

The Yorks and Lancs march side by side,

Wi' Jocks and Geordies, Borderers, and

Taffs,

Devons, Cornwalls, Buffs and Staffs.

Ivery county joining in—airmen, seamen, civvy Jim.

Canucks, Aussies, Maoris too, stand to face this Devil's brew,

Of those who by their force or stealth

Tax freedom from our Commonwealth,

And through the battle's roar and din,

Good comrades all, we grouse—or grin,

Until at last the cease fire sounds, 'tis then we rest and lick our wounds.

And then we count our loss and gains,

And praise the Lord we're not in chains.

And in St. Dunstan's comfy wards,

The Yorks and Lancs again cross swords,

And argue which is best with glee,

Old Trafford . . . ahem . . . or Heading-ley.

Aw' finished, Wilfred, more or less,

Except uv coorse,

Good neet . . . God bless.

H. CRABTREE.

Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., G.B.E.

Founder of St. Dunstan's

CYRIL ARTHUR PEARSON was born at Wookey, near Wells, on February 24th, 1866. His father was an Anglican clergyman, the Rev. A. Cyril Pearson.

He was educated at Winchester College, attaining a good reputation in a number of sports and general athletics. He left school in 1882, and for two years read privately under the guidance of his father in a country rectory. Then his opportunity came. The proprietor of a popular weekly paper announced that he would give a situation with a salary of £100 a year to the reader who secured the highest marks for answering ten questions each week for three months. The competition, which was a keen test of knowledge, created great excitement; nearly 4,000 competitors entered it. The winner was Cyril Arthur Pearson.

In September, 1884, he came to London to take his place in the office of the late Sir George Newnes, at a salary of £100. He quickly rose to an important position and before he was thirty founded his own magazine, "Pearson's Weekly," and a number of other popular weeklies. In 1900 he founded the *Daily Express*, and was connected with a number of other newspapers, but his sight began to fail and he had to give up these newspaper interests. One of his best loved hobbies was the Fresh Air Fund, which gave holidays to millions of poor children from the slums.

His sight failed completely, and in 1913, Sir Arthur (or Mr. Pearson as he then was), joined the Council of the National Institute for the Blind. In 1914 he was unanimously elected President of the Institute, the highest honour it was in the power of the Council to bestow. In 1915 he founded St. Dunstan's, and in 1916 he was awarded a baronetcy for this great work. In 1917 the additional honour of G.B.E. was conferred upon him.

Sir Arthur Pearson died on December 9th, 1921, mourned by thousands of blind people all over the world. And before he died he wrote these words:—

"I confess to being very proud of St. Dunstan's. I regard it as a place full of wonders—the wonders of tragedy turned to joyful content, of helplessness turned to capability, of courageous resolution in the conquest of apparently overwhelming difficulties, of dauntless determination and of truest heroism."

In Memory of Sir Arthur

On the morning of Saturday, December 8th, Messrs. W. Shakespeare and W. Lacey, representing St. Dunstaners of 1914-1918, and John Mudge representing last war St. Dunstaners, went to Hampstead Cemetery with Mr. Askew and Mr. Watson, where a wreath was placed on Sir Arthur Pearson's grave.

Sunday, December 9th, was the thirtieth anniversary of Sir Arthur's death, and in the morning a Service was held at St. Dunstan's Chapel, Ovingdean, conducted by the Reverend B. Crane. Sir Neville Pearson read the Lesson, and Sir Ian Fraser gave the address. Lady Neville Pearson, Lady Fraser, Miss Pain and Mr. Nigel Pearson were among those present. Lady (Arthur) Pearson was regrettably unable to be present.

In the evening, at St. Dunstan's, West House, a Service was conducted by the Rev. W. Taylor, and Sir Neville again read the Lesson, and Sir Ian addressed the Service. At both Services, the hymn "Abide with me" was included. This hymn was written by the Rev. H. F. Lyte, great-grandfather of Sir Arthur Pearson.

Thanksgiving Prayers were offered at the Services for the restoration to health of His Majesty the King.

Both Services were filled to capacity, including a large number of St. Dunstaners from Brighton and further afield.

Braille Centenary Year

1952 will be the Braille Centenary year, marking the date of Louis Braille's death in 1852. The occasion will be marked by many events, among them broadcasts in which St. Dunstan's, with the National Institute for the Blind, will participate.

From Miss Gough

I would like to thank all the St. Dunstaners who so kindly contributed to a present on my retirement. As the choice has been left to me, I am buying a tea-set and an electric kettle. I don't need anything to remind me of all my friends at St. Dunstan's, but I am very pleased to have these mementoes.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all every good fortune in the future, and to tell you that I shall always take a great interest in all that concerns St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners. I think it was Sir Arthur who once said, "Once a St. Dunstaner, always a St. Dunstaner."

N. GOUGH.

London Reunion Dance

The evening of Wednesday, November 28th, once again saw St. Dunstaners in the London area gathering at the Seymour Hall for their annual Reunion. If there were not quite so many present as last year, this only made it easier to find old friends, and for the more energetic ones to enjoy dancing to the music of the Royal Horse Guards Band.

Our President, Sir Neville Pearson, welcoming the guests, recalled again the great pleasure it gave him to meet St. Dunstaners on this night above all others. It had been a great regret to them both that his wife, Lady Pearson, had not been able to come after all. For this a visit to the dentist that afternoon was to blame.

In a short speech, Sir Ian Fraser revealed that he had now been thirty years as Chairman of St. Dunstan's. He spoke of the genius and love of humanity of Sir Neville's father, the late Sir Arthur Pearson, the founder and first Chairman of St. Dunstan's, whom he succeeded. "We shared the battle against blindness, and conquered it as you have done," said Sir Ian. "St. Dunstan's," he added, "had been more than an encouragement to British soldiers, sailors and airmen. It had been an example to the world, and each one of them had written a notable page in its history."

A Gift to Toc H.

Sergeant Alan Nichols, in a letter sending Christmas wishes to friends of St. Dunstan's everywhere, sends us a long press cutting concerning a gift he is making to the town of Portslade. Sergt. Nichols is Chairman of the newly-formed Mile Oak Holiday Farming Group of Toc H, and he is giving to the Group three acres of land to be developed as a pig and poultry farm, with a section devoted to sports activities. In time it is hoped the little group will become self-supporting.

Test Results

Typing.—G. Chisholm, J. Fulling, J. W. Taylor, J. Walton, L. Scales, H. J. Taylor, J. Mosley, W. Burnett.

Writing.—M. Bryce.

Preliminary.—J. Fulling, C. Phillips, R. Towner.

Placement

E. Gaiger, of Devizes, as builder's clerk in his brother's business.

Ovingdean Notes

An annual event always most popular is the Brighton, Hove and District Grocers' Association Christmas Party. It was held this year on December 4th, at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, when over 400 guests were entertained. It was an evening which many St. Dunstaners will long remember.

Mr. H. Finlay, who is the new Secretary of the Association, following Miss Morley's retirement last year, is to be congratulated for the manner in which he had carried on in Miss Morley's tradition. We were all pleased too that Miss Morley, so long associated with St. Dunstan's, was able to be present at the Party.

This last week-end was the occasion of the Memorial Service to the Founder of St. Dunstan's, Sir Arthur Pearson, a special occasion, being the 30th anniversary of his death.

Christmas Entertainments at Ovingdean

Local St. Dunstaners are most cordially invited to join us at Ovingdean on the following occasions during Christmas:—

Saturday, December 22nd—

8 p.m., Games Evening.

Sunday, December 23rd—

8 p.m., Play-Reading.

Monday, December 24th—

8 p.m., Pantomime and Carols (Music Hut).

Christmas Day—

8 p.m., Informal Concert.

Boxing Day—

4 p.m., Ovingdean broadcasts in "Family Favourites."

8.30—11.30 p.m., Carnival Dance (Fancy Dress optional).

Friday, December 28th—

8—10 p.m., Dance.

Saturday, December 29th—

8 p.m., Domino and Whist Drive for local St. Dunstaners.

Sunday, December 30th—

8 p.m., Play-Reading.

Monday, December 31st—

8.30 a.m.—12.15 a.m., New Year's Eve Dance.

Chapel Services—

Sunday, December 23rd—10 a.m., Morning Service.

Christmas Day—

10 a.m., Holy Communion; 5.30 p.m., Evening Service.

Sunday, December 30th—10 a.m., Morning Service.

West House Notes

No occasion throughout the month gave us more pleasure than when we held our "Good Companions Party" at West House on November 14th. We were particularly happy that Sir Neville Pearson found time to join us that day.

Last month mention was made of the Sussex Handicraft Exhibition, and of the prizes awarded to St. Dunstaners R. J. Williams and J. Robson. There was, however, another prize awarded to G. Matrenin—making two awards for West House men.

Blackpool Notes

The Festival of Remembrance at Blackpool Opera House is an annual event, bringing ex-Service organisations together from all parts of the Fylde. Jock Inness and a young V.A.D. represented last war St. Dunstaners, and Harry Smith, escorted by Matron, the 1914-18 war.

W. Chamberlain laid a wreath on the Cenotaph on November 11th, and later we welcomed members of the Liverpool and Manchester Clubs at the Bourne Hotel. Our good friend, Mr. Blythe, brought along as a surprise Harry Johnson (captain) and Stan Mortensen, of Blackpool Football Club. The boxing world was represented by Jim Turner, promoter, and Ronnie Clayton.

All will be pleased to know that on the Promenade we have the zebra crossing, and on the tram standard a new sign which reads "St. Dunstan's, Stop."

And so will I. . . .

B. V-D.

Birth

MITCHELL—On November 22nd, to the wife of A. C. Mitchell, of Guildford, a son—Nicholas Charles.

Grandfather

J. Stedman, of Hayes; R. Scrimgour, of Middlesbrough.

The Fellows of St. Dunstan's

They're young, they're old,
They're tough, they're bold,
The fellows of St. Dunstan's.
From morn to night, their outlook's bright,
The fellows of St. Dunstan's.
Their handicap or limitation
Is as welcome as a poor relation,
But they're masters of the situation,
The fellows of St. Dunstan's.
For what has gone they do not grieve,
Nor do they live in make-believe,
But Excelsior! Do you get me, Steve?
Say the fellows of St. Dunstan's.
So, thankful for God's blessings, we
With courage and integrity
Will keep alight the torch of C.A.P.
Say the fellows of St. Dunstan's.

A. B. C.

"In Memory"

Kevin P. P. J. Henderson, *Royal Army Service Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Kevin Henderson, of Stockport, a St. Dunstaner of the last war, who had served with his regiment from May, 1939, until May, 1941. Already a very sick man when he came under our care in December, 1949, he suffered very severely, but bravely and patiently, until his death, which occurred at his home on November 19th.

We heard with sadness also that his father was taken ill a few days before, and he died in hospital on the same day as Kevin, not knowing of the death of his son.

Mrs. Dunphy and Miss Doel attended the double funeral at St. Winnifred's Roman Catholic Church. Sir Ian's wreath, from his St. Dunstan's friends, was among the many flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Henderson and her family in their tragic double loss.

Rifleman Albert George Peto, *9th Rifle Brigade*

With deep regret we record the death of A. G. Peto, of Exeter. He was fifty-six.

He came to us immediately upon his discharge from the Service in July, 1916. He trained as a physiotherapist and had followed his profession until his last illness. He had been ill for a long time, and he died in hospital on November 27th.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow, son and daughter.

Seaman Andrew Bedderman Tanner, *Royal Navy*

With deep regret we record the death of A. B. Tanner, of St. Ives. He was sixty years old.

Discharged from the Navy in October, 1917, "Bob" Tanner came to St. Dunstan's the following year, where he trained in basket-making. He was a conscientious craftsman, and was never so happy as when he was busy in his workshop, and, in the summer months, chatting with visitors to his lovely little Cornish home town. His visits to Brighton, usually once a year, also were eagerly looked forward to, and greatly enjoyed.

He had been ill for some time past, and he died on December 4th, leaving a widow, and a son by his first marriage. Our deep sympathy goes out to them both.

A poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was among the many flowers.

“In Memory”

G. M. Riseley, *Australian Imperial Forces*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of G. M. Riseley, of Woodbridge, Tasmania. He died in September, after a long illness.

Although serving with the 2nd Battalion, A.I.F., he was living in England when he came under our care in 1932. He had a little training, and his interest always was in farming. In 1940 he returned to Tasmania where he became interested in the welfare of ex-Servicemen, and he was selected by the Soldiers' Executive to serve as their representative on the Repatriation Committee, under Captain Marriott's chairmanship.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Riseley.

Private George Tibbs, *Royal Army Service Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of George Tibbs, of London, N.19, who died at the Blackpool Home on November 27th. He was within a fortnight of his 76th birthday.

He was discharged from the Service in 1919 and came to us in August, 1921, when he trained in mats and netting, and he had worked at his crafts right up to the time of his last illness.

The funeral service at Blackpool was taken by the Rev. Wardle Harpur. Messrs. H. Lea (representing first war St. Dunstaners) and B. Priest (second war), and Matron Vaughan Davies attended the funeral. The flowers included a poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and a wreath from “men, staff and Matron of the Blackpool Home.”

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and sons.

Private Walter Sheridan, *9th Essex Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of Walter Sheridan, one of our permanent residents at West House. He died there on November 19th.

Serving from August, 1916 until June, 1917, he came to St. Dunstan's in August of that year. He was wounded at Arras, and in addition to blindness received injuries also to his leg and arm. He trained as a netter and at one time had a shop, but for a number of years he had lived at one of our Homes.

The funeral took place at Brighton and wreaths from his Brighton friends, and from Sir Ian, were among the flowers.

Private Thomas Devlin, *6th South Lancs. Regiment*

It is deep regret that we record the death of T. Devlin, of St. Helens.

He was wounded at the Dardenelles and came to us in September, 1915. He trained as a boot repairer and mat maker and proved an excellent craftsman, but for a long while now, he has been a very sick man, and had stayed for long periods at our Homes at Brighton and Blackpool. He died at his own home on October 27th.

A wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

Private Lewis Alfred Wilson, *1st Northumberland Fusiliers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of L. A. Wilson, of North Ormsby, Middlesbrough.

“President Wilson,” as he was usually known, served from September, 1914, until 1916, and came to St. Dunstan's almost at once, where he trained in joinery. Although of late his health had been very poor, he kept his keen interest in his work almost to the end. His death occurred at his home on November 1st.

The flowers at the funeral included a poppy wreath from Sir Ian; the R.A.O.B. was also represented. He leaves a widow, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Private Harry Faulkner, *King's Liverpool Regt.*

With deep regret we record the death of Harry Faulkner, for some time a permanent resident at West House.

Harry came to us in November, 1918, and was trained in netting and wool rug making, but he had been a very sick man for many years now. His death at West House occurred on November 29th.

Flowers from his Brighton friends, and a poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser were among the flowers at the funeral.

Private J. E. Howe, *King's Shropshire Light Infantry*

With deep regret we record the death of another one of our permanent residents at West House.

He served with his regiment from December, 1915, until August, 1917, when he lost his sight, and he came to us in May, 1921. He trained as a mat-maker but for a great number of years he had been under our immediate care. Although he had not been very well for a long time, his death on November 29th was unexpected.

A poppy wreath from Sir Ian, and wreaths from his Brighton comrades were sent for the funeral.

Joseph Edwards, *King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. Edwards, of Grimsby.

Although he was discharged from the Army with damaged sight as long ago as 1919 (he served from November 1st, 1914, until that year), it was not until June, 1947, that he came to St. Dunstan's, and he was then a very sick man and unable to undertake any training. His death occurred in hospital, after an operation.

A wreath of poppies from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to his family, and particularly to Mrs. Kearney, his daughter, who had cared for him until the time of his death.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 390—VOLUME XXXV

JANUARY, 1952

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

AT the turn of the year we were reminded of two celebrations. 1951 was chosen as the year to celebrate the millenary, or thousandth year, since Dunstan was Archbishop of Canterbury, and 1952 is the hundredth year since the death of Louis Braille. These are two important names to us.

Dunstan was a draughtsman, a statesman, scientist and a cleric. I attended a banquet given by the Goldsmiths' Company, who consider him their patron saint, at which the present Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Fisher, proposed his immortal memory. Dr. Fisher praised Dunstan's service to the nation in bringing factious elements in the community together, and many legends and myths about him were recalled. For example, he pulled the Devil's nose with a long pair of iron tongs which he had himself made, for he was an expert blacksmith. Also, he sawed through the beams which upheld the floor of a council chamber, and arranged for the leading members of the opposition to assemble in this room before the others, so that they all fell through to a dungeon below and gave him no more trouble. Other politicians since his day have liquidated oppositions with similar efficiency. Thinking that the people were drinking too much and did not know how much they drank, he invented a beer pot which had a number of pegs in it at different levels, so that a man could measure his portion. Clearly, Dunstan was an ingenious fellow, fit to give his name to an organisation composed of so many ingenious fellows as we are.

A few months ago, Mr. Alfred Noyes, a famous poet, made Dunstan the saint of the blind. I see no reason why he should not be, so let us share him with the Goldsmiths' Company. Mr. Noyes' lines in the "Sunday Times" were so beautiful that I think they are worth repeating.

St. Dunstan's Prayer.

- "Thou who never canst err, for Thyself art the Way;
Thou whose infinite kingdom is flooded with day;
Thou whose eyes behold all, for Thyself art the Light,
Look down on us gently who journey by night.
- "By the pity revealed in Thy loneliest hour,
Forsaken, self-bound and self-emptied of power;
Thou who, even in death, hadst all heaven in sight,
Look down on us gently who journey by night.
- "On the road to Emmaus they thought Thou wast dead,
Yet they saw Thee and knew in the breaking of bread.
Though the day was far spent, in Thy face there was light.
Look down on us gently who journey by night."

Louis Braille

Louis Braille was a Frenchman who died in Paris on January 6th, 1851. He was himself blind and devoted much of his life to overcoming the difficulties of the blind, and amongst other things, devised a means of reading by touch. His system has survived for a hundred years with its essential characteristics unaltered. Different countries, notably the United States, tried other arrangements of dots and lines, but the original Braille system, as interpreted in the English standard Braille code, has become almost universal. I am a fairly good Braille reader for one who has lost his sight in adult life, and I can testify that it is possible to read the better known American Braille magazines just as easily as the English ones, without seriously noticing any difference to the touch.

The distinguished St. Dunstaner, Sir Clutha Mackenzie, working as an adviser to the United Nations, is now spreading the use of Braille throughout Asia and Africa. It is hard to estimate the contribution which Louis Braille's invention made to the blind world. Reading is one of the gateways to the mind, and an improved and constantly refreshed mind is a great asset to any man. Nor is this all, for Braille is also of very real value to speakers, lecturers, businessmen, telephone operators, and a host of others who need notes or records. And then there are those who read to pass the time, and for pure pleasure; perhaps they are the most fortunate of all.

IAN FRASER.

War Pensions Concessions

St. Dunstaners will remember that in the article in the April REVIEW under the above heading, reference was made to the new "Comforts Allowance" of 10s. a week, which the Ministry of Pensions had agreed to give to War Pensioners who were either suffering from multiple war wounds or who were receiving the Unemployability Supplement and a Constant Attendance Allowance. At the time it was not thought that this Allowance would be issued to St. Dunstaners who did not come within these categories, although Sir Ian and Mr. Askew considered it should be more widely applied, and as a result of representations they have made, the Ministry have now agreed that all St. Dunstaners—whether in receipt of the Standard Rate of Pension or the Alternative Pension given to some men of the First World War—to whom they are paying a Constant Attendance Allowance of 20s. a week or over, are eligible, and they are awarding the Allowance on this basis and with effect from June 6th, 1951.

The majority of those St. Dunstaners who are entitled to the Allowance will already have received it by the time this article appears. If, however, there is any St. Dunstaner who feels he is entitled to the Allowance and who has not received it from the Ministry by the end of February, he should write to Mr. Banks at Ovingdean, or to Mr. Rice at 1 South Audley Street.

Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Williams, Sheringham, December 18th; Mr. and Mrs. R. Hobbs, Weston-super-Mare, December 28th.

From Miss Pain

Through the medium of the REVIEW I would like to send my warmest thanks to the hundreds of St. Dunstaners who have remembered me with greetings for Christmas, and have sent their good wishes for my retirement. I shall be with you all in thought, and would like you to know what great happiness you have given me through the years I have been fortunate enough to be your Matron.

DOROTHY PAIN.

Seasonal Greetings

The following telegram of good wishes was sent to Australian St. Dunstaners by Sir Ian:

St. Dunstaners in United Kingdom and my wife and I send good wishes for happy Christmas and good luck in the New Year to all Australian St. Dunstaners and friends and you and your family.

IAN FRASER.

Mr. McConnell replied:

Sincerely reciprocate your kind message. All members heartily reciprocate.

McCONNELL.

This telegram was sent to the Union des Aveugles de Guerre, Paris:

St. Dunstaners and I send good wishes for happy Christmas and good luck in New Year to all French blinded ex-Servicemen.

IAN FRASER.

Mr. Izaac Amblard replied:

Thank you for your wishes. Please accept ours for British war-blind. Happy New Year to all Saint Dunstaners, their Chairman and Lady Fraser.

IZAAC AMBLARD.

London Club Notes

On the 18th December, the London Club held its Christmas Party. Amid gaily decorated surroundings, a crowded audience enjoyed a performance by Miss Rita Williams, Harry Lock, and that celebrated star, Beryl Orde, who came back again and again in response to the prolonged applause. James Moody at the piano, and our old friend, Billy Pitt, made an evening which was perhaps the best ever. The singing of Auld Lang Syne brought the evening and the year to a successful close, and by the time you read these notes, the new Committee will be working on the New Year's programme, and jolly good luck to them. Here are the dates of the walking races for 1952:

Jan. 26th 7 mile All England Championship.

Feb. 23rd 10 miles.

Mar. 22nd 12 miles.

All at Regent's Park, starting at 2.30 p.m.

Apr. 19th 15 mile at Wembley.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge

In the London Business Houses League, Paul Nuyens' team won their match with Aquarius on January 11th.

I have been asked by many people, "What is our subscription to the Bridge Section for?"

The answer is that it is not so much a subscription nowadays as the greater part of it goes to charity, actually about 90%. For the last five years we have given a watch to a deaf-blind person, through Mr. Ottaway's Deaf-Blind Watch Fund, and this year it was again voted that another watch should be given to this splendid cause, of which Mr. Askew is the Secretary.

Three of our members, Messrs. P. Nuyens, F. Rhodes and H. Gover, with Miss Hazel Winter, were to have played a hand of bridge in the Braille Centenary radio programme on January 6th, and the recording was made, but unfortunately this had to be cut out of the final programme owing to lack of time. We did, however, get as far as having our photograph in the "Radio Times."

H. GOVER.

Stalag 9 A/H

"Taffy" Rowe, of 5 Greenfield Terrace, Cwmpark, Treorchy, Glam., sends a Christmas card and New Year greetings to the boys who were at Stalag 9 A/H with him.

Boxing Day Broadcast from Ovingdean

The "Family Favourites" broadcast on Boxing Day was from our Ovingdean Home and the St. Dunstaners taking part were: Messrs. C. Cooper (Worthing), W. T. Curtis-Willson (Brighton), Peter Harris (Ovingdean), G. W. Lamb (Hull), W. J. Hopper (Bridlington), J. Proctor (Saltdean), R. Smith (Seaford), and Mrs. Maureen Lees. Miss Pain also returned, especially to take part. The broadcast took the form of friendly interviews by that very popular announcer, Franklin Engelmann, in the course of which St. Dunstaners asked for their choice of music, which was most promptly produced. It was a most entertaining broadcast, and one which one newspaper critic rated as one of the highlights of the Christmas programmes.

Louis Braille Centenary

Louis Braille, inventor of the method of writing which bears his name, died on January 6th, at the early age of 43. He died, unknown outside a small circle of personal friends and professional acquaintances, thinking that his invention of an alphabet that the blind could read by touch was a failure.

On January 6th last, a special programme of the B.B.C. paid tribute to his memory. Famous figures of the blind world, like Sir Clutha Mackenzie, who is the braille expert advising UNESCO, joined with tiny children from the Sunshine Homes, and men and women in all walks of life, to tell the vast listening public of their complete physical, mental and spiritual independence, and of the immeasurable debt owed to Louis Braille.

A number of other St. Dunstaners went to Broadcasting House for records to be made, but lack of time allowed only the Rev. Michael Norman and Mr. Sydney Jones, a trainee at Ovingdean, to be included in the actual broadcast.

A Television Programme a few days before the Centenary included our Darts players, Messrs. Charles Williamson and J. Edwards (who holds the individual Cup).

The Television Service on January 9th included yet another St. Dunstaner, Captain Alan Milne, B.Sc. (Econ).

Talking Book Library

November News

A brace of new releases, both in the "adventure" category, are now eligible for wide circulation. "The Saint in New York" is a modern, high-powered story of unmoral knight-errantry, and "Midwinter" is the story of a Jacobite in the 1745 rising. Neither book is too long, and both provide a full measure of entertainment. My rough synopses are particularly ineffective with books such as these, but I can offer the usual rough guide.

"The Saint in New York," by Leslie Charteris, reader John de Manio, is a gory fantasy in which the Saint, Simon Templar, cleans up all the "bigboss" racketeers in New York single-handed for a fee of one million dollars. The yarn is necessarily "bitty," as the Saint has to track down each racketeer in turn, but though his gay smile may irritate occasionally, the action is too swift for that to matter much. Does he earn that million dollars!

"Midwinter," by John Buchan, reader Joseph McLeod, is mainly concerned with a partisan of the Young Pretender on a mission in England to secure men and arms just before and during the '45 rising. Amos Midwinter is the head of an organisation of "Olde England," and although he and his men help the hero personally, at no time do they appear for, or actively against, the "cause." A tutor, Samuel Johnson, provides some comic, yet touching relief. I have yet to meet a Buchan book that is not absorbingly interesting!

The future seems packed with solid, mainly historical, reading, so make the most of the light yarns of the last two months.

December—Denouement

The last gasp of 1951 added three more volumes to the year's production, two of which—"The Kingdom of Melchior" and "Sir Richard Grenville"—are historical, and the other, "Elephant Bill," is adventure in Burma with an elephant theme. Although all of them are readable, the first one is Arabian, and personally I find such a setting a trifle off-putting.

"The Kingdom of Melchior," by the Master of Bellhaven (Lt. Col. the Hon. A. Hamilton), reader Richard Wessell, is the rough history of South Arabia as seen by a

political officer on tour, no, circuit, from his base at Aden. The period covered is somewhere in the 1920's up to 1931, and the writer includes a wealth of anecdote and experience. It is entertaining, instructive, and less difficult to read than most Arabian novels.

"Sir Richard Grenville," by A. L. Rowse, reader Richard Wessell, is a full historical biography of a man everyone connects with the epic fight of the "Revenge." That fight was the final act of a many-sided career and the redeeming feature of Grenville's frustrated life. It seems that among a galaxy of fierce Cornish squires, Grenville was just too hot for Elizabeth to allow him much scope overseas. Perhaps we are too civilised now to regard the Tudor period in its true savagery and delicate culture, but the background to this biography is an England with no metalled roads or built-up areas. I enjoyed it.

"Elephant Bill," by J. H. Williams, reader Jack de Manio, throws some light on the training, life and habits of the Burma elephant in the service of a teak company, and gives a glimpse of the tuskers helping the Army against the Japs. The first half is most interesting, but with the advent of the war, the elephant somehow slips into the middle distance. Good interesting reading, especially the first half.

Don't forget to change the needle in 1952!

NELSON.

Placements

J. H. Westby, Manchester, in the Inspection Department of Messrs. Fairey Aviation Company, Stockport; A. G. Sageman, as an operator on a pulping machine, with Horton Kirby Paper Mills, Dartford; H. J. Taylor, East Croydon, as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. Trojan, Ltd., Croydon.

Country Life.—The following St. Dunstaners have been, or will be shortly settled as poultry farmers: F. Boughton, at Silverstone, Northants; J. H. Dix, at Cryers Hill, High Wycombe; and C. V. L. Montgomery (officer) at Slinfold, Sussex.

Second College Reunion

The 2nd College Reunion is to be held at the Criterion Restaurant, entrance in Lower Regent Street, on Saturday, April 26th, 1952, 1.30 to 5.30 p.m. Tickets, 10s. 6d. each. Apply to Hon. Treasurer, W. T. Scott, 46 Leigham Avenue, Streatham. Tel. Streatham 6524.

From All Quarters

As a result of his broadcast in "Have a Go," Tom Daborn has met an old school friend with whom he had completely lost touch, has discovered a distant relative, and has acquired several new customers whose interest had been aroused. Tom has won yet another cup for fishing—the Specimen Cup for the largest fish of that type caught when out with his fishing club.

★ ★ ★

W. E. Bignell, of Edgware, is a keen rabbit fancier, and his youngest Sable Doe, in her first show, took a first prize in the Under 5 months Class, and first in the Under 5 months Grand Challenge. Then she went on to another Show and took another three firsts. We hope that she fulfils our St. Dunstan's hope that she can become a Challenge Cup champion.

★ ★ ★

At the British Legion Christmas Party, at Reddish, the guests were entertained by Mrs. Abram, a member of the Women's Section, who sang songs, accompanied by her husband. Alf Abram has always been a keen musician, encouraged, as he says, by St. Dunstan's.

★ ★ ★

A long article in the *Evening News*, Portsmouth, on December 5th, told of the magnificent work being done by Lieut. Commander R. C. Buckley, G.M., R.N., who is Portsmouth Command School Liaison Officer on the staff of the C.I.C. The article was headed, "The Navy could have no better spokesman."

★ ★ ★

Alan Hold, who plays the accordion, broadcast in the West of England Home Service, on January 10th, with the Yeovil Temple Salvation Army Band.

★ ★ ★

Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Heeley, of Leeds, met many old friends when Mrs. Heeley opened a very big bazaar in Wakefield, their old home town, recently.

★ ★ ★

Quick thinking on the part of R. M. Harmsworth, of Salisbury, saved his house from serious fire damage recently. He heard a crackling noise from the bathroom and promptly telephoned the Fire Brigade, who found the bathroom ablaze. The fire had started under the floorboards, where a gas pipe had melted.

A New Year's card to Sir Ian from "Gerry" Stappers, whom many will remember at 12 Park Crescent, comes from Antwerp, and discloses that Mr. and Mrs. Stappers now have a little son, Auguste.

★ ★ ★

Phillip Todd was a guest of honour when his firm held their annual dinner at Shrewsbury recently. He has been a capstan machine operator with the Sentinel Works since 1944 and is a very popular member of the staff.

★ ★ ★

Harold Bridgman has also been in the news lately. A full page article in the *Derby Evening Telegraph* had stories and photographs of the inhabitants of Derby's War Memorial Village, and our St. Dunstan was amongst them.

★ ★ ★

A first-rate letter to the Editor of the *Western Daily Press* from A. G. Emerson, of Redfield, Bristol, called attention to the dangers of Church Road, where he has his shop. He called for a Zebra crossing to prevent further loss of life and injury.

★ ★ ★

Robert Fullard gained second place in Section C of the London Boroughs Braille Reading Competition. This class was for people who have become blind since 1938.

★ ★ ★

Joe Walch, of Saltdean, read the Lesson in Holy Trinity Church, Blackpool, from braille, on Sunday, January 6th, the centenary of the death of Louis Braille.

St. Dunstan's Occasion

Seven St. Dunstaners—all of them employed as telephonists by Shell Mex, Limited—were the guests of the firm at a dinner in their honour on December 12th, followed by a visit to a theatre. They were Messrs. S. H. Bush, A. W. Bundy, J. G. Fleming (first war), W. Phillips, Ron Phillips, H. Petty, and L. D. Northwood (second war).

Sir Ian Fraser, Mr. A. Mackay, Mr. G. P. Owens and Mrs. Harvey, Telephony Supervisor, with waiting with their hosts to welcome them.

This most enjoyable evening was the result of a suggestion made by Mr. E. Fidler, Telephone Communications Manager of Shell Mex, who has been for many years such a good friend and adviser to St. Dunstan's telephonists, and Mr. Fidler himself was there to meet his guests.

Contributions Invited

During the next six months, the Editor invites St. Dunstaners to contribute to the REVIEW short articles of not more than three hundred and fifty words—that is, a column of the REVIEW—for which payment of one guinea will be paid for a column, and half a guinea for half a column. Articles on any subject will be welcomed, which in the Editor's view are of sufficient interest to St. Dunstaners to warrant publication. The Editor's decision must be final in all cases. No contributor can receive payment for more than three articles during the six months. The Editor has the right to cut articles if necessary, and make payment accordingly, but, on the other hand, if a contribution is so good that it is deemed worthy of inclusion as a first-page "leader," then a special payment of three guineas will be made.

Contributions (preferably typewritten), should be sent to the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1.

Reflectorised White Sticks

The National Institute has devised a stick which it is hoped will be more useful to some blind people in getting about at night than sticks already on the market. Tests have shown that in country districts and areas which are not built up, and where it is normal to rely on headlights, this stick is visible at substantially greater distances than the ordinary white stick.

The new stick is not likely to give greater protection in built-up areas where there is street lighting and where motorists do not normally rely on their headlights.

The special price to blind people is 3s. 6d., and the sticks are obtainable from the N.I.B., 224 Great Portland Street, W.1. Catalogue Number 9467 (or 9468 for a lady's stick).

Jigsaw Puzzles

The N.I.B. also announce four jigsaw puzzles, originally introduced before the war. They are Horse and Kangaroo, (easier to assemble), Windmill, and Full Sail Ahead. The price is 6s. each. All puzzles are mounted on plywood.

Grandfathers

W. Sargeant, Folkestone; W. S. Castle, of Birmingham.

Liverpool Club Notes

On Saturday, 8th December, the Liverpool Club held their annual Christmas Party at the Headquarters, Sefton Hall, Leece Street, when members, their wives and children, assembled to take part in the now very popular event. A knife-and-fork tea commenced the proceedings for the sixty-two who were present.

Among the guests were Matron Vaughan Davies and Sister (Dee) Hothersall of Blackpool, Mrs. Dunphy and Mrs. Lang of the Manchester Club, and Miss Doel, Welfare Visitor.

After tea the Chairman, Mr. L. Jackson, proposed the toast to "The King," and said how pleased we all were to know that he had safely recovered from his illness. The toast was taken as all present stood.

The President, Captain Halloway, then extended a hearty welcome to the guests, Mrs. Dunphy replied, saying that she was sure that the party would be most enjoyable, as Liverpool Club always did things very well.

At this stage, Alex Wright, Hon. Treasurer, presented Matron Vaughan-Davies with a diary as a gift from the Club. Matron, in replying, thanked the Club for their kind thoughts towards her, and specially requested that all St. Dunstaners present should sign their names in the diary, and this was done.

After the brief speeches, the proceedings were carried on by Mr. J. Reason and his Concert Party—Miss Shirley Constable, Mr. N. Blundell, Mr. Charles Whitter and Mr. George Lamb, each in their turn providing first class entertainment. The Club are fortunate to have such kind friends as Mr. Reason and his Party, on this and other occasions. Mr. Reason accepted a gift of a diary, and Miss Constable the gift of an electric table lamp made by Edwin Cooper.

The concert over, presents were distributed to all the children present. They were then entertained to several games for which prizes were given to winners. The ladies then took part in the games arranged for them. Prizes were again awarded to winners, as was also the case in the men's games which followed.

After the games, dancing followed, to music provided by Mr. Albert Kidd (piano), a friend of George Ellis, who was at the drums. The combination was excellent.

The party was voted by all as one of the best.

JIM SHAW.

"Christmas Spirit"

All was very peaceful. It was Christmas Eve. The scene, the Lounge at Ovingdean, after breakfast.

Four men were sitting on a settee, young, old men, with a feeling of fun, joke, or anything for a laugh.

During the week-end "camels" had played a part. Camels that were going to cause laughter for the whole Christmas. It all started with a man asking for some sand, and when asked why, explaining that Father Christmas had promised him a camel for a present. Suddenly, as these things happen, one man called, "Sister," and the Sister appeared, a new one, not yet used to the ways of St. Dunstan's and its men. She came alert, willing, helpful.

"Can we have two buckets of sand?" A slightest hint of hesitation then—"Sand?" Did you say sand?" Yes, it was sand that was desired, and a further hint given that Matron had approved us having it. Away bustled the Sister. Semi-hysteria swept the settee. It had happened, we had found a victim.

After a few minutes, Sister came back, this time complete with notebook and pencil. "I can get the sand, I have been to the boiler house and seen the engineer, but there is some trouble about the buckets."

We helped by suggesting that maybe the orderly at the front door could help. Good old Jack Stavely, always obliging. Off went Sister again. Back once more. "Yes, you can have the buckets—new ones—but how long will you want them for?" Serious discussion between two men. "About one and a half to two hours." Then came a question from Sister. "I must have your names as the buckets have to be accounted for." With no hesitation the man from War I said, "Pendleton," and the Second War man, equally spry, "Taylor, Charlie Taylor." The names were duly noted and then, "Where can I put the sand?" "Put it in the Hall Porters' Room." Away went Sister, keen, helpful and deadly serious on her job. The men on the settee now decided that life would be less exciting elsewhere. One went to play dominoes, one to the Winter Garden, one to a remote corner of the Lounge, the other to his room. Quiet descended upon the Lounge; all once more was peace.

Then a flurry of skirts, a whirlwind of outraged femininity. It had been discovered

at last, but where were the men? One, alone in his corner, was not to blame; he was only sitting; Charlie Taylor was playing dominoes, and where was Pendleton? He was delivered up, his hide-out disclosed. Suddenly he is confronted, "How dare you! You must apologise to everyone. I will not be caught." But Pendleton is now dignified; he will not go down and apologise. If such is needed, then bring up the apologee to the apologet, and the police if necessary. Sister discovers she is up against a brick wall. She threatens to see "that Taylor" later. Later, two humble "crest-fallen" men attempt to offer apologies to Commandant, Matron and old Jack in the Hall. The laughter is loud and long.

But we did not apologise to Sister, so here goes. "Thank you, Sister; we appreciate your once more demonstrating that the boys come first, and no matter what the boys want, St. Dunstan's can supply it. And, Sister, a happy New Year, and many of them. You are now initiated into the ways of St. Dunstan's."

We, however, will remain just

PENDLETON AND CHARLIE TAYLOR.

P.S. I did get my camel—a plastic one from a cracker at dinner on Christmas Day.

"Viewpoint"

"Viewpoint," the quarterly magazine issued by the National Federation of the Blind, will be published as from January, 1952, in both Braille and inkprint, at an annual subscription for either of five shillings. Enquiries should be sent to the Circulation Manager, Mr. V. C. Grimshaw, 2 Langham House, Gosfield Street, London, W.1.

The Editor as from January, 1952, is Mr. Roy Brown, formerly a member of St. Dunstan's staff at Church Stretton and Ovingdean as a Braille instructor.

Report of National Laying Test 1951-52

Second period of four weeks, November 5th to December 2nd.

				Score value to date
1	Jackson, G. C.	...	...	255
2	Webb, W.	...	...	184
3	Jarvis, Albert	...	...	151
4	Taylor, Tom	...	...	125
5	Gregory, T. D.	...	...	122
6	Holmes, Percy	...	...	98
7	Bagwell, Philip	...	...	84
8	Clarke, T.	...	...	39

Just a few Lines—from Blackpool

December weather in all its mooooods
 Had nothing worse than Wimbourne
 flooooods;
 If tides had reached one higher mark
 The Home would have been St. Dunstan's
 Ark.

We watched the waters rising high,
 From here and there a deeper sigh,
 Oh where, tell me where, can the dear boys
 be?

Have they taken refuge or been washed
 out to sea?

Weep not, nor fear—they've not gone far.
 Some to the Queen's and others, the Star.
 Then the telephone rang—"Keep dinner
 aside,

We are now marooned by the rising tide."
 And those safely at home called, "Hoorah,"
 and "Hear, hear,
 "Please Matron, may we drink their share
 of the beer?"

Most of the wives and escorts too,
 Had sensed the danger and to this Home
 flew.

We gave them dinner—they seemed quite
 pleased
 When hunger and thirst were somewhat
 appeased.

But others—and staff—leapt up on a wall,
 On which they balanced or had to crawl,
 Later the taximen brought them through
 And charged not a penny or even a sou.

One wife who at the Southdown Hotel
 Was spending a holiday—behaving quite
 well,
 Tried the dividing wall to climb
 to avoid the water and also save time.

The wind caught her skirt, over her head it
 did blow,
 Whilst folk at all windows enjoyed a free
 show.

The day might have proved serious, but we
 had laughs in plenty,
 And will always remember '51, Decem. 20.

There will not be much room in this month's
 "REVIEWS"

To give details of Christmas or ordinary
 news,
 We dined — we "went places" — went
 dancing — had fun,
 Till the old year had finished—the new
 one begun.

To St. Dunstaners all, where'er ye may be
 Matron and staff at the Home by the sea,
 Send '52 wishes and to each a warm greet-
 ing,
 We look forward to—our next merry
 meeting.

B. V-D.

★ ★ ★

The Home remembered and observed the
 anniversary of Sir Arthur Pearson's death
 on December 10th by a Service, taken by the
 Rev. Wardle Harpur. Many St. Dunstaners
 braved the extremely severe gales to be
 present.

The day was so stormy that St. Dunstaners
 and their wives were chilled when they
 arrived; Matron—took the course which she
 knew would meet with the approval of Sir
 Arthur. She gave them a cup of tea with
 rum or whisky to taste! She has had no
 complaints about chills.

During the gales E. Benton, of Sale,
 had his new trilby blown away. It was
 returned next morning by a person who
 explained that he knew it belonged to a
 St. Dunstaner as it was found near the
 Home and had *braille* on the leather band
 inside!

Young St. Dunstaners

The son of F. Hunt, of Regent's Park
 Road, London, has won a scholarship to
 Oxford University, which he will take up
 when he has done his National Service.

Marriage

Audrey James, Darlington, on August
 18th, to Geoffrey Cox.

On January 31st, Olive Mitchell (King-
 ston-on-Thames) to Squadron Leader W. T.
 Shaw, of Grimsby.

On June 16th, 1951, Thomas Walter
 Turner, son of Harris Turner, of Victoria,
 B.C., Canada, to Christine Lambert Hous-
 ton, at Vancouver.

Greetings From Australia

In a letter we have received from Alec
 Craigie, of Albany, Western Australia, he
 says how sad he is at the thought that he
 cannot join the walking races now, but he
 sends his best wishes to all the participators
 and organisers, and to any of his old
 colleagues who remember him.

Letters to the Editor

War Pensions Campaign

Dear Editor,

I was interested to read of the British Legion's campaign for a 100% increase in the basic pension. I should like to see that, but a recent deputation of the Limbless Men went to Parliament to ask for an increase to just over three guineas. I suggest that the heads of all these organisations get together and agree as to the amount that should be asked for. The Ministry is sure to offend the Legion if they give anything less than the 100% they ask for, and I think the Ministry concerned will take more notice of a deputation representing all disabled men than it will of several organisations going to see them separately.

Yours sincerely,

E. OXBOROUGH.

Great Yarmouth.

Dear Editor,

Now there has been a change of government, I hope there will not be a change of policy towards ex-Servicemen, and that steps will be taken to remove some of these anomalies that irritate, and remove also those other anomalies that allow certain people to treat war pensions as charity dispensed by themselves.

Sincerely,

Castle Cary.

A. J. RADFORD.

Ovingdean Broadcast

DEAR EDITOR,

The December B.B.C. broadcasts from St. Dunstan's in London and Brighton interested me very much. It was nice to hear those familiar voices again, and with one exception I should like to congratulate the competitors on a good show.

My disappointment came when our B.B.C., (Bad Boy Charlie), got embarrassed and baffled over the question put to him concerning braille. He had been honoured by being chosen as a representative, and granted the privilege of talking to the largest audience that has ever come the way of any St. Dunstaner. This, together with the fact that Charles had three years' training in St. Dunstan's, made his reply, "I am afraid I am one of the bad boys of braille," a most disconcerting one. I thought the opportunity had been created for him to show his proficiency in the subject. It was unfortunate that Charles had neglected his braille, otherwise he would have been

mentally alert and in a position to convince the listening public that he had braille at his finger tips.

I soon realised, after becoming blind, that I must learn braille to get moving again; it is as essential to a blind person as petrol to a motorist, for through it the intellectual highways once more stretch before him. In short, braille is the mental escort *always* at your service.

Yours sincerely,

Farnworth, nr. Bolton.

H. POLLETT.

Sponsored Radio Programmes

Dear Editor,

Sightless people can claim a very special right for consideration of their views on broadcasting. Maybe our convictions are based more on emotion, but when was logic so much more reliable than feelings?

Now, while we would all stubbornly defend our right to criticise the present B.B.C. set-up, I am sure a good many of us would resent the adoption of sponsored radio programmes, as has been suggested. Here are some of my own objections:—

News.—The influence of the great advertising houses on the policies of newspapers is frankly recognised, and its extension to broadcasting would threaten the high factual standard and possibly even the length and number of the B.B.C.'s bulletins, on which blind people rely.

Entertainment.—Popularity is the goal of advertising, and here would be a strong temptation to crowd out the less obtrusive, though equally desirable forms of entertainment.

Music.—The British listener would gain little by the introduction into this country of the "Tin Pan Alley" system of "plugging."

Talks and Features.—It is difficult to see how a correct balance could be preserved. No doubt a talk by Thomas Cook on the glories of Switzerland could be matched by one from William Butlin on the beauties of Blackpool, but unless the items were of a popular character, balance might lead to cancelling out.

Finally, in more general terms, the interests of minority groups, so carefully safeguarded at present, would be discouraged, if not actually neglected.

Yours sincerely,

DOUGLAS WARDEN.

London, W.12.

DEAR EDITOR,

Will you kindly convey all best wishes for a very happy New Year to all St. Dunstaners from the Canadian girls.

It was my privilege to be attached to St. Dunstan's as a V.A.D. and handicraft teacher in 1944 and 1945. It hardly seems possible that it is six years since I left Church Stretton. Time certainly flies, and yet we often think of you, and whenever the girls from St. John's and Red Cross who served St. Dunstan's get together, we always talk about Church Stretton and St. Dunstan's.

Morna Barclay, who was secretary to Commandant Dacre, came over from Hamilton one evening last week and brought with her several copies of the REVIEW. You have no idea how glad I was to see them, as it has been some time since I've seen a copy. It's so good to hear news of the boys and girls and to know they are doing so well. Some of you still write the odd letter to us, and they certainly are well read.

The girls are all fine. The boys are all back home again, and although we do not see them very often, we do hear of them.

The girls don't get together very often as they are busy with families and jobs, but I know they would want to send you their special greetings.

There are Mary Nesbitt, Hazel and Wendy Wilkie Foster in Kingston, Mary Scorer in Winnipeg, Morna Barclay in Hamilton, Diana Pease Stratford in Brantford, Margaret Blackmore McClure in Montreal, Virginia Pearson Pincombe in Brampton and Bicky Proctor Mayne, Mary McKay, Eleanor Shaw Johnson and myself in Toronto. Helena Campbell was married last spring to Dr. Michael Davies and is now living in England.

To you all the Happiest of New Years,

Yours sincerely, VERA JOHNSON
16 Evans Avenue, Toronto, 9,
Ontario, Canada.

DEAR EDITOR,

We tender our very heartfelt thanks to our most thoughtful and competent Commandant for the loveliest Christmas of all.

May we also say, Thank you, Smithie. In all our years at St. Dunstan's we have never heard the men laugh so much and so heartily as they did this year at Smithie's pantomime.

ALL THE WIVES PRESENT
AND MOST OF THE ESCORTS.

Brighton Notes

Miss Pain Retires

This has certainly been a memorable Christmas, for so much has taken place at Ovingdean.

Our Christmas festivities began early, on 14th December, with the Trainees' Christmas Dinner and Dance. This was an occasion of some merriment, as usual, but also because it was the eve of Matron Pain's retirement, some sadness. We were very pleased indeed that Lady Fraser came down from London to join the party and only sorry that Sir Ian was not able to be present. He was attending a Public Meeting in London in connection with the British Legion War Pensions Campaign. A message of good wishes was sent to Sir Ian and the British Legion wishing them success from those present at our Dinner.

Lady Fraser, in a speech after Dinner, referred to her long association with Matron Pain—they were V.A.D.s together at St. Dunstan's in 1915—and said that Matron was one of the most wonderful women she had ever known, and she wished her a long and happy retirement—a wish which was echoed by everyone present. Tom Denmead (as the Training Centre's "oldest inhabitant"—in length of stay but not in age!!) presented Matron with her gift from the Trainees, which was a blue leather dispatch case bearing her initials. Miss Pain replied after the singing of "For she's a jolly good fellow" had died down sufficiently for her words to be heard—and this was quite some time!! Following this there was dancing in the Lounge from 8 to 11.30 p.m.

On her retirement Miss Pain had also been given a Marconi Portable Radio by the staff at the Ovingdean, West House, Port Hall and Northgate House Homes, with their very best wishes for her future happiness.

After the departure of the trainees to their homes for Christmas, Ovingdean began to fill up with St. Dunstaners who were to spend the holiday here, and by Christmas Eve, when the programme of entertainments began, the house was pretty full.

The Staff Pantomime—a novel presentation of "Cinderella" written and devised by Miss Smith, V.A.D., and produced by

Miss Newman, V.A.D., was, in spite of a howling gale outside doing its best to lift the roof of the Music Hut, well attended and evidently much enjoyed. To mention that Orderly Frank Bickerton was the "Fairy Godmother" will, perhaps, give a slight inclination of the "free adaption." !!!

Both Commandant and the new Matron, Miss Ramshaw, were present at the Men's Christmas Dinner following the distribution of Christmas presents by Sue Fawcett, Commandant's daughter. On Christmas evening there was an informal concert.

The Lounge on Boxing Afternoon was filled to capacity to hear the broadcast and everyone was delighted that Miss Pain came back to Ovingdean specially to take part in that programme. From letters received from all over the country it seems that the B.B.C. listeners generally enjoyed the programme every bit as much as those connected with St. Dunstan's. After the broadcast Mr. Franklin Engelmann came into the Lounge and chatted with many of the St. Dunstaners present and answered questions which were fired at him. He said, in parting, that he hoped to come again, and we certainly hope he will.

The Boxing Day Gala Carnival Dance was next on the programme, and, as in previous years and well up to St. Dunstan's standards, there was a truly amazing assortment of costumes.

Space in these columns is limited, and therefore it is most difficult to try to mention even a little of the different entertainments, but the local St. Dunstaners were well represented, not only on the occasion of the Invitation Domino and Whist Drive on 29th December, but throughout the Christmas and New Year festivities.

Our new Matron, Miss Ramshaw, was greeted by St. Dunstaners spending their holiday at Ovingdean, by many local men, and received many congratulations on her appointment and good wishes for her happiness.

West House

West House was quite transformed by decorations for the Christmas holiday from the moment visitors stepped into the cosy hall out of the blustery wind and rain. The Men's Dining Room, Lounge and even the Sick Wards, were each decorated in a different manner—by the Staff of that Section.

A full programme of entertainments was

arranged, commencing with a Whist Drive and Dominoes on Saturday, 22nd December, and a Carol Service was held on Sunday afternoon. The civilian blind from the Lantern Club, Brighton, were the guests of St. Dunstan's on Christmas Eve; on Christmas Day gifts were distributed from the Christmas Tree by Sue Fawcett.

On Boxing Day there was a coach ride before lunch, whilst in the evening a party went to the Pantomime in Brighton.

On New Year's Eve another party was made up to go to the Pantomime and came back to West House in good time to toast the New Year in rum punch.

The traditional New Year's dinner on 1st January completed the week's festivities.

We should like to send all good wishes to our friends everywhere for a very happy 1952.

St. Dunstaners Robbed

Our sympathy to Gilbert Webster, of Shipley, whose home was ransacked while he and his family were away at Christmas. Money was taken, his Talking Book damaged, and a St. Dunstan's medal for football was also missing.

★ ★ ★

T. Chamberlain, of Woodley, Berks., was also the victim of a mean theft recently when wooden furniture pieces were stolen from him. "Mean and despicable," said the magistrate, fining the thief £5.

Can You Beat It?

Half a century ago there appeared on the front page of *The Yorkshire Post*, and other newspapers, a family group of five generations. It comprised my great-grandmother, grandmother, father, my sister, and her wee son, and was taken in the garden of Nichols' Place, Dewsbury Road, Leeds. Two of my father's sisters are still alive, and each heads four generations. I am hoping to continue the record and to head four generations, and feel very confident of doing so.

In my stable for 1952 I am training "Confidence" and "Determination" for the Stayers' Cup. Last year "Moderation" won everything he was asked to do and showed big dividends at the end of the year. "Patience" is the oldest one I have in the stable, but he will go on winning till the end of time.

All the best for 1952 is my sincere wish for readers of the REVIEW.

ALAN NICHOLS.

Portslade.

“In Memory”

Stoker Alexander Doyle, *Royal Navy*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of “Paddy” Doyle, of Ryde, Isle of Wight. He was sixty-one.

Paddy came to St. Dunstan's in May, 1919. He had been captured by the Turks while serving on Submarine E.7, and it was a result of his experiences as a prisoner of war that he lost his sight. After his training, he joined our Appeals Staff, and then the N.I.B. Staff. In 1932 he moved to Ryde, Isle of Wight, to run a kiosk, and he became one of the Island's most popular residents.

The funeral was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Ryde, Councillor and Mrs. Christy, representing Ryde Corporation; many other civic officials were present, and the British Legion was also represented, as were many other bodies and companies in Ryde. The many wreaths included one of poppies from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends, and from the British Legion, the Ryde Town Clerk and Staff, and the “Taxi Boys.” The coffin was covered with the Union Jack. In an appreciation in the *Isle of Wight Times*, the Mayor wrote: “A very gallant gentleman has passed to the other side.”

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Doyle, whom he met when she was a V.A.D. at St. Dunstan's.

Births

GIMBER.—On December 2nd, to the wife of S. Gimber, of Beckenham, a daughter—Susan.

GIMBRERE.—On January 2nd, to Mrs. Alice Gimbrere, of Wembley, a son.

HOMEWOOD.—On December 20th, to the wife of R. Homewood, of Lincoln, a daughter—Susan.

NOLDE.—On December 20th, to the wife of Norman Nolde, of Leytonstone, a son.—Richard John.

ROAKE.—On December 15th, to the wife of George Roake, of Catford, a son—Brian Michael.

Marriages

FULLING — McCALLUM.—On December 29th, J. J. Fulling, of London, E.17, to Miss J. J. McCallum.

RIGNALL—BUXTON.—On December 22nd, George Rignall, of Palmers Green, to Miss Mary Elizabeth Buxton (until recently a V.A.D. at Ovingdean).

Death

COPE.—Our deep sympathy goes out to Mr. and Mrs. H. Cope, of Stoke-on-Trent, whose little invalid daughter died on January 7th.

Personal

Mrs. M. E. Penny wishes to thank Matron Pain and the staff at Ovingdean, Matron Avison and staff at West House, and Headquarters staff, for their many kindnesses and consideration during her late husband's membership of St. Dunstan's, and she thanks also his St. Dunstan's friends in Brighton and elsewhere for their messages of sympathy in her loss.

Mr. Robert B. Irwin

It is with deep regret that we have learned of the death of Mr. Robert B. Irwin, the distinguished American blind leader. Mr. Irwin did magnificent work for the American Foundation for the Blind and for the American Federation for the Blind, which he founded.

Colonel Thornton

We have heard with deep regret of the death of Colonel Thornton, who was Director of Medical Services, Ministry of Pensions, South West Region, and in this capacity began his great interest in St. Dunstan's men. Indeed, he was personally responsible for a number of them coming to St. Dunstan's. He was always a most popular visitor at our West of England Reunions, for his kindly understanding, in spite of great personal loss suffered during the war, made him greatly beloved, not only among his many friends, but amongst those with whom he worked. Many St. Dunstaners will feel that they have lost a very true friend.

Miss M. Elliott

Many St. Dunstaners who were at St. Mark's Hospital, Chelsea, and the College, Regent's Park, in 1918 and 1919, will learn with deep regret that Miss M. Elliott, one of the Canadian V.A.D.s, passed away in Montreal General Hospital on December 11th.

The news is passed on to us by “Jock” Boyd, who has kept in touch with Miss Elliott since her return to Canada.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 391—VOLUME XXXV

FEBRUARY, 1952

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

A Message from The Queen

"I am sincerely grateful for your message. Please assure all those for whom you speak that I deeply value their kindness and sympathy.

ELIZABETH R."

With these words, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II acknowledged a telegram which had been sent by our President, Sir Neville Pearson, in which he said:

"The Council and all members of St. Dunstan's throughout your Empire offer to Your Majesty their loyalty, devotion and deep sympathy at the tragic passing of their Sovereign and Patron."

Telegrams were also sent to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and Queen Mary expressing the deep sympathy of all St. Dunstaners.

King George VI

By IAN FRASER

I have just heard Mr. Churchill's broadcast. He praised the late King, comforted the Queen Mother, and welcomed the new Queen in phrases so rare and with eloquence so moving that one may well be tempted to ask what more can be said. But he was speaking for a whole people perhaps for all time, and it is the duty of humble writers to say what they can for representative sections.

King George VI was a sailor, a soldier, and an airman, not merely by virtue of his office, but also by training. Service men admired his knowledge of their craft and his high sense of duty. Ex-Service men admired his understanding of their problems, and the disabled were warmed by his compassion and his example.

King George conquered his disabilities of shyness and moderate health, and in suffering he bore himself with a dignity and courage which were exemplary. As Patron of the British Legion, Patron of St. Dunstan's and benefactor of many ex-Service causes, the late King gained not merely admiration but affection.

In recent years, since I have been President of the British Legion, it has been my duty and my honour to sit with the King and Queen in the Royal Box at the Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall. During the spectacular

parts of the programme when contingents of the Armed Forces would perform, they used to describe the scene to me in a running commentary, and the King would show an extraordinarily detailed knowledge of the various units and uniforms which were displayed before us. The King liked to see ex-Service men wearing their medals and he always wore his own and his British Legion badge on these occasions. The King and Queen would ask about the British Legion, its strength, the results of Poppy Day, how far the young men of the Second War were joining, how we were getting on at St. Dunstan's, and whether the men blinded in the Second War were doing as well in their training as the older generation.

For one who had to bear the great burden of affairs of state, and of many states, these may seem to be small matters, but they interested the King and showed his ready sympathy with the things that touched the everyday lives of ordinary men and women. King George was the friend of all, but I should not be claiming too much if I were to say that he had a very warm place in his heart for all who had served in the Armed Forces of the Crown, and especially for those who had been disabled in that service. In that sense his passing has deprived us not merely of a great King and a kind man, but also of a friend.

St. Dunstaners, more than most, need and appreciate the strength and confidence that comes from a sensitive wife and family, and we express to the Queen Mother our admiration of her part in sustaining the great burden which the late King had to bear and our deep sympathy with her in her personal loss.

St. Dunstan's Pays Its Respects

Led by our Chairman, a group of St. Dunstaners representing all ages and Units drawn from Ovingdean, West House and London, with members of the staff as escorts, visited Westminster Hall on February 14th and filed past the coffin of the late King George VI to pay their respects to his memory. They could picture the scene which they had heard described on the wireless, and the silence, broken only by the rattle of accoutrements as the Guardsmen, Gentlemen-at-Arms and Yeomen changed watches, was deeply moving.

Our Wreath

A beautiful wreath of poppies, in the form of St. Dunstan's badge, was sent to Windsor Castle for the funeral of His Late Majesty. It bore these words: "From St. Dunstan's in affectionate memory from blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen of the Empire."

Messages From Overseas

A message of sympathy with St. Dunstan's upon the death of our King and Patron, has been sent to Sir Ian Fraser by M. Izaac, Commandant, and M. Amblard, Secrétaire Général, of the Union des Aveugles de Guerre, Paris.

★ ★ ★
Paul Nuyens, a Belgian and a St. Dunstaner, writes: "I would like to express

to my British comrades and friends my deepest sympathy with the great loss they have sustained by the sudden death of their beloved King and Sovereign."

★ ★ ★

Messages have also been received from many other St. Dunstaners at home and overseas.

Thirty Years Ago

From "St. Dunstan's Review," February, 1922 :-

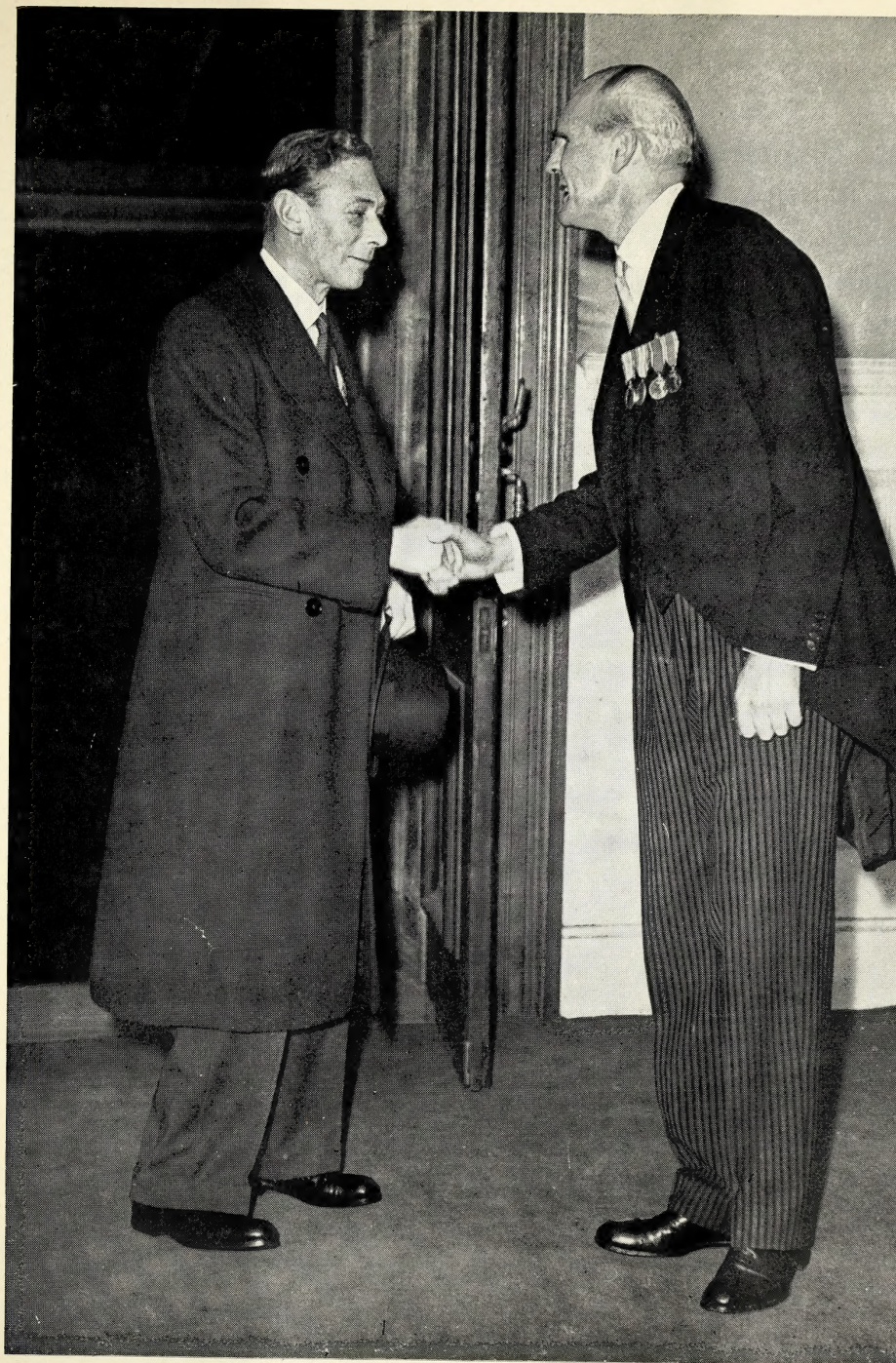
"The visit of the Press with a great number of famous sportsmen was the outstanding event in November sports. We had with us such men as R. H. Spooner, E. G. Hayes, G. N. Foster, P. F. Warner, the famous Corinthian captain, C. Wreford Brown, J. G. Cock, of Chelsea, George Duncan and J. H. Taylor of golf fame, D. L. A. Jephson, F. B. Wilson, Joe Binks the well-known mile champion, and many others. . . ."

And this appeared over the signature of "Ian Fraser":—

"With this issue of ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, I very regretfully relinquish the Editorship of the little House Magazine, every issue of which I have been responsible for since 1917 . . ."

Acknowledgment

The photograph of King George VI with Sir Ian Fraser which is enclosed in this issue of the "Review" is reprinted by the courtesy of the "Sunday Graphic."



His Late Majesty King George VI, Patron of the British Legion and Patron of St. Dunstan's, is received by Sir Ian Fraser at the British Legion Festival Remembrance in London on November 6th, 1948

London Club Notes

The London Club held its Annual General Meeting on January 18th. The Chairman's Report and the Balance Sheet were received favourably and approved unanimously. Mr. Askew then took the Chair, and the new members of the Committee were elected. Following this, a number of proposals were put forward for the forthcoming year, and these were duly noted to be passed on for consideration.

The Committee for the ensuing year is as follows: Messrs. P. Ashton (Chairman), J. Mudge (Vice-Chairman) *Bridge Section*: S. Webster, H. Gover; *Outdoor Section*: T. Gaygan, C. Stafford; *Indoor Section*: C. J. Walker.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge

The Bridge Section played three matches during January. Against the Air Ministry we lost by 2,500 and against Mr. Armstrong's team we lost by 3,400, but we won by 3,300 against the G.P.O. Our two teams in the London Business Houses League have progressed as follows:

JOCK BROWN'S TEAM:—

Played 6, won 2, drawn 1, lost 3.

PAUL NUYENS' TEAM:—

Played 6, won 3, drawn 1, lost 2.

There are nine sections of this League and our two teams are in different sections.

H. GOVER.

Indoor Section

In response to the feeling of members at the Annual General Meeting, the Club is arranging for a dance to be held at the Victory Club, near Marble Arch, on Friday, March 28th. Ron Bell and his Orchestra will play. Tickets, which will be 2s. 6d. each, can be obtained at the Club.

The Committee hope that the Club will support this dance, as it is being run at the request of the majority of the members who were present at the meeting.

We have quite a number of Darts and Cribbage matches coming on in the near future, both at home and away, and we hope for the support of club members for these events in order that St. Dunstan's Club shall put up a good show, whatever the opposition.

C. J. WALKER.

Outdoor Section

The 7-mile All England championship walk took place on January 26th, and, although the morning promised snow, by

the time the race started the sun shone, but there was a keen bite to the wind. The field moved off to a sharp pace, and a most interesting and well fought-out contest developed. T. Gaygan, W. Miller and C. Williamson kept that order until about a mile and a half from home, when Gaygan was retired, and Miller went on to win in faultless style and so becomes the S.S. Champion. C. Williamson, the first T.B. man home, now becomes the champion for that Section. In the meantime, a duel was being fought out between Bradley, Cryan and Tutton, each in turn getting his nose in front. So finished an excellent race.

Air Commodore G. Bentley Dacre, C.B.E., D.S.O., acted as starter and later presented the prizes. We were pleased to welcome him to our Club.

Training night is Tuesday, 6.15 p.m., Holme House, Bedford College, Regent's Park. We are now well supplied with escorts, so any new men who can turn out will be welcomed.

Forthcoming Walks:

February 23rd—10 miles.

March 22nd—12 miles.

April 19th—15 miles.

Total Aggregate Points to date

S. Tutton	...	...	...	53	points
W. Miller	...	...	...	52	"
C. Stafford	...	...	...	52	"
P. J. Cryan	...	...	...	50	"
A. Brown	...	...	...	49	"
C. Williamson	...	...	...	48½	"
A. G. Bradley	...	...	...	45½	"
T. Denmead	...	...	...	40	"
T. Gaygan	...	...	...	30	"

St. Dunstan's 7 mile Walk

Regent's Park, January 26th

	Actual time	H'cap all.	H'cap time	Psn. in h'cap
W. Miller	61.44	1.55	59.49	2
C. Williamson	63.08	.50	62.18	5
A. Brown	64.37	3.05	61.32	3
A. Bradley	67.04	5.30	61.34	4
P. Cryan	68.17	9.25	58.52	1
S. Tutton	69.04	6.30	62.34	8
C. Stafford	69.26	7.05	62.21	6
T. Denmead	70.28	7.55	62.33	7

Prize-winners:

Sir Arthur Pearson Trophy—

T.B., C. Williamson.

S.S., W. Miller.

Handicap 1st, P. Cryan.

2nd, W. Miller.

3rd, A. Brown.

Style Prize: W. Miller.

Handicapper and Timekeeper: W. J. Harris.

The Pensions Campaign

Although Parliament was naturally concerned with the Chancellor's grave financial statement, nevertheless there were no less than five Questions to the Minister of Pensions on the Order Paper on the opening day, arising, undoubtedly, from the British Legion campaign for higher pensions.

When Members asked the Minister when he would make a statement and drew attention to the fall in the value of the pound, Sir Ian Fraser intervened to ask:

"Will my right hon. Friend and the Chancellor of the Exchequer receive a deputation from the British Legion in this matter before a final decision is made?"

Mr. Amery replied:—

"I cannot speak for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but I can assure my hon. Friend that I am always glad to receive a delegation from the British Legion."

Speaking in the main Financial Debate, Sir Ian said:—

"It should not be assumed that because we support the Chancellor's proposals so far as they were disclosed in yesterday's speech, we do not have in mind some of the claims which will be made upon him and which we hope he will find the money to meet when he comes to balance up his year's accounts and produce his Budget. There is an outstanding claim, so often presented to this House, and to be presented again, that the pensions of some three quarters of a million men—victims of two world wars—should be adjusted to the present rate of money values."

Wait for the Budget

Sir Ian Fraser told a group of new St. Dunstaners: "You must wait for the Budget on March 4th to hear whether there is to be any immediate change in war pensions; the national finances are not strong, but the British Legion and St. Dunstan's are doing their best to persuade Parliament and the Government that an improvement in the basic rate is long overdue."

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser visited Brighton on February 13th to inspect the work at Ovingdean and West House.

Even Then

"There be two things that grieve my heart; and the third maketh me angry; a man of war that suffereth poverty."

ECCLESIASTICUS xxvi 28.

Talking Book Library

January Jabber

Six average length volumes constitute the first batch of 1952 releases.

"Royal Flush," by Margaret Irwin, reader Jack De Manio, is an historical novel dealing with the five children of Charles I. Minette, the youngest of the five, is the central figure, but, like most ladies appearing in history, her life was in the main a wretched existence. Readable if you like the period.

"Rebecca," by Daphne du Maurier, reader Jean Metcalfe, is a modern classic. A common or garden romance behind which lies the "perfect crime." All narrated so simply and sweetly by a lonely, pathetic, girl-wife. The first record impressed me as the best literature I have read, although such things may be a matter of mood to a large extent.

"A Wreath of Roses," by Elizabeth Taylor, reader Stephen Jack, impressed me so little that my summary can hardly do more than say it is a "woman only" book concerning an elderly spinster artist, her cottage, her incipient rheumatism, and her very humdrum friends. Ladies maybe, chaps—take cover!

"Sea and Sardinia," by D. H. Lawrence, reader Robert Gladwell, is very dated, and it is rather unfair to the author to record this one of his many works. Palermo by ship to Sardinia, bus and train through the island, across to the mainland and back to Palermo via Naples. Frankly I was bored.

"Murdering Mr. Velfrage," by Roy Vickers, reader Lionel Marson, is an amusing mystery thriller. The hero during the first action is under the influence of an overdose of quinine, and he only finds out as the story develops that his misty dreams were the truth. The real crooks use this dimness to try and pin a murder rap on the hero. Two very fetching girls fill out the programme, and the reading is enjoyable.

"Days without Sunset," by D. Batchelor, reader Alvar Liddell, suits my personal taste admirably. Cricket, the 1938 and 1948 Australian Test Series and two cricketing yarns, then Olympic Games, 1948, after which a little boxing and horse-racing round the book off nicely. Like it?

Don't miss Rebecca!

NELSON

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Let us adopt Dunstan as our Patron Saint by all means. Let us share him with the Goldsmiths' Company, by all means. Alfred Noyes' lines are beautiful indeed. They are extremely appropriate.

But surely the house in Regent's Park was called St. Dunstan's before it was acquired for the training and recuperation of blinded soldiers of the 1914-18 war? If this is so, our name, as an institution, is merely accidental. Again, if this is so, our assumption of adoption of the patronage of an ingenious fellow who was Archbishop of Canterbury a thousand years ago is a myth. Let us be fair about this matter. The activities of our organisation are known the world over. Each one of us is proud to have shared in its creation. It's historic. Let us thank our lucky stars that there was such a lovely house in Regent's Park. Let us be thankful, if you like, that the name of that house was St. Dunstan's. If this is so, it would be unfortunate to allow the familiarity of the name to give the impression that that ingenious fellow, who knew how many quarts there were in a pint pot, had anything to do with our creation.

Yours sincerely,

W. T. SCOTT.

Streatham.

Correction

A. J. Radford, of Castle Cary, would like to correct a wrong impression which may have been conveyed in his pensions letter last month. Owing to lack of space it was not possible to print also a Press extract which accompanied his letter, and which would have explained the reference more fully. Our St. Dunstaner intended to imply that the new Government will not seek to excuse themselves on the score of national economy from pursuing the campaign for higher pensions when the late Government was in power. His excellent letters to the Press are supporting the campaign.

G. Pallanza, of Edgware, is another who is helping the pensions campaign by means of letters to the Press. He took up the challenge in the *Edgware, Mill Hill and Kingsbury Times*.

Placement

R. A. Fullard, as a shorthand typist at the Treasury, Great George Street, London, S.W.1.

In My Travels

Whilst travelling to work as a telephonist, every day I have met quite a number of people.

The other morning a gentleman who boarded my bus sat next to me and started a conversation, during which I remarked I was a St. Dunstaner.

He then told me that way back in 1900 he started as a messenger boy to the late Sir Arthur Pearson, our Founder, in his newspaper business. He said: "My father was a first-class printer who worked for Sir Arthur, and was able to get me the job as messenger. I travelled to Crewe when Sir Arthur started printing newspapers in the North. What a fine boss and gentleman he was," and he recalled how his daughter used to take him to his office in an old-fashioned cab.

I told him how we in St. Dunstan's still honour the memory of our Founder's death every year by placing a wreath on his grave, and holding a memorial service in Brighton. "It has done me a lot of good," he said, "to think that Sir Arthur has brought so much happiness and goodwill to so many."

To me this was, I think, the most interesting journey I have ever made, and I was sorry when he said "I must get off here."

G. EUSTACE.

A Record?

E. Stevenson, of Whitehawk, Brighton, and his two brothers have just met for the first time in fifty years, and, to complete a double, when his son John finishes his National Service and comes home this month, there will be a reunion of his three sons for the first time in twelve years.

Second College Reunion

The second College Reunion is to be held at the Criterion Restaurant, entrance in Lower Regent Street, on Saturday, April 26th. 12 for 1 o'clock to 5.30. Tickets 10s. 6d. each. Apply to Hon. Treasurer, W. T. Scott, 46 Leigham Avenue, Streatham. Tel.: Streatham 6524.

Well Walked

Charles Williamson, with a handicap allowance of fourteen minutes, won the Warlingham Cup event organised by Surrey Walking Club, on January 21st. It was over a course of ten miles.

Draw in Aid of Camp Fund

The table lamp presented by W. Birchall was won by J. Muir.

Holiday Camp—Morecambe

You will remember that last year the Middleton Tower Holiday Camp, Ltd., of Middleton Sands, near Morecambe, Lancs., very generously gave a free holiday to twenty-five St. Dunstaners and their wives. The Directors of the Camp have very kindly agreed to repeat the offer this year.

The date suggested is the week commencing Saturday, May 24th, and twenty-five chalets will be made available as before. The holiday will be completely free, except that those taking part will be required to meet the cost of return train fares from their home town to Morecambe. Arrangements will be made by the Camp for St. Dunstaners and their wives to be met at the station and conveyed to the chalets.

Please let me know without fail by *Wednesday, March 19th*, if you wish to join this holiday party. It may well be that we will receive more than twenty-five applications, and if this is so it will be necessary to hold a ballot. Priority, of course, will be given to St. Dunstaners who have not already enjoyed the hospitality of the Middleton Tower Holiday Camp.

A. MACKAY,
Welfare Superintendent.

To Old Hibernians and Members of the Duke of York's Royal Military School

Any St. Dunstaners who used to be members of the Duke of York's Royal Military School, or were Hibernians, are invited to contact either Detective Inspector Nixon, Wapping Police Station, London, E. 1 (Telephone Royal 1116), or A. E. McCarthy, Esq. (Secretary, Old Boys' Association), 29 East Mearn Road, Dulwich, London, S.E.21 (Telephone Gipsy Hill 1414), if they would like to get in touch with any of their old comrades.

There are various groups of "Old Boys" throughout the United Kingdom who organise a number of functions during the year, such as dinners, outings, etc. They would gladly welcome any St. Dunstaner "Old Boy" and are willing to arrange escorts, if necessary.

★ ★ ★

Roy Borrie, of Victoria, Australia, sends good wishes to all St. Dunstaners. He says he is happily settled in his home workshop and cannot cope with all his basket orders.

Ovingdean Notes

We said farewell to several trainees at the end of last term, and many will, by this time, have settled down in their new jobs. We send them our best wishes now.

The Spring Term commenced on January 8th, and a number of new St. Dunstaners came to Ovingdean during the month. Amongst the new arrivals came Stuart Craig, a young New Zealander who was wounded in Korea, serving with the New Zealand Forces, and also two South African St. Dunstaners, Ken Branson and George Wagner—all recently arrived in this country.

Entertainments have been plentiful and varied so far this term. We were extremely fortunate in having Mr. Tom Jenkins and Mr. Jack Byfield, both well known as broadcasters, come along on January 16th to give a Concert, which was well attended and much appreciated. We are all looking forward to their promised return visit.

Very early in the month we welcomed a group of Overseas Students, who visited the Training Centre. They were young people studying various subjects and at various Colleges throughout the country, and there were many nationalities represented. The visit was arranged in conjunction with the British Council, and the students were deeply interested in all they saw here. One, a young man from Persia, made a little speech in the Lounge before the group left for London, and said how much they had all appreciated the arrangements made for them. Writing from London after the visit, Miss Hubbard, who was in charge of the party, said as most of the students had come from countries which do nothing to train blind people, they were most impressed with the work being done at St. Dunstan's.

From learning to sport! At the risk of causing our readers to shiver, we should like to tell everyone interested—and we hope this year there will be more than ever—that Sports Day is to be held at the Training Centre during July (on a Saturday). The exact date will be announced as soon as possible. In the meantime, what about getting some teams together?

Shooting

The first Tournament this term was won by No. 5 Team, consisting of Messrs. C. Redford, H. Webster and J. Walton. They won five out of six matches, this gave them a total of 835 points out of a possible 900.

Births

- BRIGHT:**—On February 9th, to the wife of B. Bright, of Birmingham, a daughter.
- BROWN:**—On January 26th, to the wife of L. R. Brown, of Stoke Fleming, near Dartmouth, a son—David Michael.
- EAGLE:**—On December 19th, to the wife of C. E. Eagle, of Victoria, Australia, a daughter.
- EVANS:**—On December 2nd, to the wife of T. Evans, of Lloc, near Holywell, a son—Adrian Dunstan.
- PHILLIPS:**—On February 6th, to the wife of R. Phillips, of Shoreham-by-Sea, a daughter—Prudence Phoebe.
- THOMAS:**—On December 20th, to the wife of Wally Thomas, of Southampton, a son—Barry.

Marriage

- STEPHENSON—FARMER:**—On December 15th, at Reading, William Norman Stephenson, to Miss Dorothy Ethel Daisy Farmer.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out this month to the following:—

- BELL:**—To Barbara Bell, of Ben Rhydding, Ilkley, whose father has recently died.
- COLES:**—To G. B. Coles, of Gainsborough, in the loss of his wife.
- COLLYER:**—To T. Collyer, of Barnet, whose wife passed away on February 9th.
- JONES:**—To H. Jones, of Watford, in the loss of his wife on January 16th.

- MARTIN:**—To B. Martin, of Bray, Co. Wicklow, whose mother passed away on January 23rd. She was 90 years old.
- REED:**—To J. H. Reed, of Grays, whose wife died suddenly on January 26th.
- THOMAS:**—To Wally Thomas, of Southampton, who lost his father on February 2nd.

Miss F. L. Collins

Early St. Dunstaners will hear with regret of the death in Switzerland of Miss F. L. Collins, who was a braille teacher first at Regent's Park, and later at West House, Brighton. Miss Collins was the sister of the late Mrs. Cooke Smith, who also taught braille at Regent's Park. Our St. Dunstaner, T. Floyd, sends us this news.

Great-Grandfather

B. F. Jones, of Greenwich.

Grandfathers

A. Palfrey, South Wales; A. G. Bright, Blackpool; W. Flowers, Birmingham; W. C. Scott, Winsford; H. Potts, Harrogate.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. A. Sneddon, St. Leonards-on-Sea, January 15th.

"Readers' Digest" Wanted

Can any reader supply me with copies of the "Reader's Digest" for the months April to September, 1951, inclusive?—A. J. Radford, Tor View, Castle Cary, Som.

"In Memory"

Private William Harley Smith, *Royal Field Artillery*

We record with deep regret the death of W. H. Smith, of Cadlington, Oxfordshire.

Although he was discharged from the Army in January, 1919, he did not come to us until September, 1949. He was then sixty-one and his state of health prevented any training. He unfortunately grew progressively worse and he died on February 6th, leaving a widow and three grown-up children, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Sergeant Joseph Ryan, *Royal Army Service Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of J. Ryan, of London, E.7, at the age of eighty-four.

After his service in the 1914-1918 war, he came to us in September, 1938, and trained in wool rugs and netting. He had been in failing health, however, for a long time and he died at his home after a long illness.

There was a Requiem Mass at St. Anthony's Church and the many beautiful wreaths included Sir Ian's poppy wreath from his St. Dunstan's friends.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his daughter who cared for him for so long.

Private John Dockery, *Australian Imperial Forces*

With deep regret we record the death at his home in Ireland of John Dockery, of Kilkenny.

Emigrating to Australia as a young man, he enlisted with the Australian Imperial Forces at the outbreak of the 1914-1918 war. He saw service on the Continent, at the Dardanelles, and again in France, and it was here that he received the wounds which resulted in his blindness. After training with us in 1929 he lived for a time at Brighton, but later settled in a small farm in Ireland and he carried on happily here right up to the time of his very sudden death on January 27th.

The funeral took place at St. Kieran's Cemetery following Office and Requiem Mass.

We extend our deep sympathy to his wife and son.

“ In Memory ”

Sergeant Ernest George Cox, *Worcestershire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of E. G. Cox, of Coventry, whose service with his regiment dated from August, 1914 until November, 1918. It was not, however, until June, 1948, that he came under the care of St. Dunstan's, and his health then was such that training was out of the question. He had borne his long illness with courage and cheerfulness, and our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Cox who had nursed him devotedly for so many years.

A poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers at the cremation ceremony.

Private Ernest Elliott, *Royal Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of E. Elliott, of London, N.13, who served with the Royal Fusiliers until March, 1919. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in September, 1950, but his sad state of health ruled out any possibility of training. Recently his condition had deteriorated and he passed away in hospital on February 4th.

A poppy wreath from Sir Ian was sent for the funeral.

He leaves a widow to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Private Patrick Goldspink, *Suffolk Regiment*

With deepest regret we record the death of Partick Goldspink, of Yarnton, Oxfordshire. He was forty-six.

A regular soldier before the war—he enlisted in December, 1935—he came to us in September of last year, but the grievous state of his health made training impossible. He suffered great additional handicaps which he bore most bravely. He had spent long periods at Ovingdean and West House, and it was at West House that he died on February 6th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and step-children.

Sergeant Robert Zacheus Hurrell, *Kings' Royal Rifles*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of R. Z. Hurrell, of Groby, Leicester, a regular soldier who had served with his regiment from October, 1906 until February, 1919.

He came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1936, and he was then a very sick man; his health and his sight had been damaged as a result of mustard gas. For a number of years he was only able to carry on with the lightest of occupations, but he was unfailingly cheerful. His death occurred at his home on January 13th.

A poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the flowers at the funeral.

We extend our very sincere sympathy to his wife and family.

A.B. Arthur Jones, *Royal Naval Detachment*

We record with deep regret the death of A. Jones, of West Hove, at the age of fifty-five.

He was discharged from the Service in April, 1915, having enlisted as a bugler when he was only 17½. He was wounded at Gallipoli in 1915, but by his own wish did not come to St. Dunstan's until May, 1928. His health did not permit him to do any other work than a little netting, and for a long time now he had been very ill. He died in hospital on January 19th.

The wreaths sent for the funeral included one of poppies from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's friends.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Jones in her loss.

Fire Watcher Richard Millett, *Civil Defence*

With deep regret we record the death of R. Millett, of Salford, whose sight failed as a result of his services in the recent war. He came to us in April, 1942, and at first it was hoped that he could continue with his old firm, but his health worsened and after a number of periods in hospital, he died at his home on December 12th.

Sir Ian's wreath was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our very sincere sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

Sergeant William James Nolan, *2nd South Lancs. Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of W. J. Nolan, of Hinstock, near Market Drayton, at his home on January 2nd.

As a boy of 17, he saw service in the Boer War.

Enlisting at the outbreak of the 1914-1918 war, he was wounded at Givenchy in October, 1915, and came to St. Dunstan's the following year. He trained as a poultry farmer and mat maker, and worked at this latter occupation right up to the time of his death, although he had been in poor health for many years.

During his service in France, he was mentioned in despatches and recommended for the Meritorious Service Medal, and to his great amusement he received this only a few months ago.

He was a popular and well-loved figure in his village, and the many flowers at his funeral included one of poppies from Sir Ian.

He leaves a widow, whom he married nearly fifty years ago, four sons and four daughters, to whom we extend our deep sympathy.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 392—VOLUME XXXV

MARCH, 1952

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I HAVE been endeavouring for many years to get better pensions and allowances for my St. Dunstaner friends and the war-disabled generally and, on the whole, I think it can fairly be said that a measure of success has been the result.

I recall some of the additional benefits which have resulted from the persistent presentation of the needs of the war-disabled, both in the House of Commons and throughout the country. As long ago as 1934 I obtained a notable concession which practically took the war pension out of the then Means Test; the Wives' and Childrens' Allowances are now available to married men, even though marriage took place after disablement; the increase in the Constant Attendance Allowance, which has helped many St. Dunstaners; the Unemployability Allowances and the new Comforts Allowance, which many enjoy; and now the increase in the standard basic pension, which will apply to all.

The new 10s. per week announced in the Budget statement as an addition to the basic pension is not as much as I had hoped, and it falls very far short of what I should have wished, but it has been a difficult and uphill task to get the principle of an increase in the basic pension admitted—and I regard the re-establishment of this principle as very important. The increase may be disappointing to seriously disabled people and a token only to the slightly disabled, but I trust that with the return of better times, the Government of the day will not be unmindful of our needs and the equity of our case.

Mr. Lale Retires

Mr. Percy Lale retires on superannuation this month. There can hardly be a St. Dunstaner who has not had business transactions with him since he joined our staff in 1920, and more especially since he became responsible for all property matters a few years later.

House purchase, loans, rents, insurance, repairs, all these matters were his province, and St. Dunstaners and staff alike have looked upon him as our property expert. Our housing arrangements, though not perfect, have nevertheless done much to mitigate the difficulties in this sphere. Without St. Dunstan's very progressive housing policy and Mr. Lale's administration, these difficulties would have been a very great burden to St. Dunstaners, and we all owe him a deep debt of gratitude.

Mr. Lale, who is himself an ex-Serviceman and a keen member of the British Legion, was a good friend as well as a sound adviser, and we all wish him the best of good luck in his retirement.

Since 1945, Mr. Peter Matthews has been responsible for the purchase of properties. He will now take over the whole Estate Department as from April 1st.

IAN FRASER.

London Club Notes

That great sportsman, Freddie Mills, came to Regent's Park on February 23rd to act as starter and present the prizes for the 10 mile walking race. As soon as he said the word, the field moved off to a sharp pace. At the end of the first inner circle, T. Gaygan was in the lead, followed by W. Miller, A. Brown and C. Williamson, and this order was maintained throughout the race, but Miller could not quite make the pace to hold Gaygan. A. Brown showed some of his old form in a well-walked race and won the Handicap. A. Bradley and T. Denmead retired, the former with cramp (insufficient training?), and the latter because he had just had a bout of 'flu. Full results are below.

Entries should be sent in for the 15 mile at Wembley, and for the 5 mile triangular match with the Insurance Companies on April 1st, Inner Circle, 6 p.m.

	Time	All.	H'cp	Pos. in
Order of Finish:—			time	H'cp.
T. Gaygan	88.10	Scr.	88.10	2
W. Miller	91.20	.30	90.50	4
A. Brown	92.09	4.20	87.49	1
C. Williamson	94.34	2.10	92.24	6
C. Stafford	100.43	12.00	88.43	3
S. Tutton	102.54	10.50	92.04	5
Prizewinners: 1st handicap, A. Brown.				
2nd „ T. Gaygan.				
3rd „ C. Stafford.				
Fastest loser, W. Miller.				

Total Aggregate Points to date

C. Stafford ...	...	...	70
S. Tutton ...	...	...	69
W. Miller ...	...	...	69
A. Brown ...	...	...	69
C. Williamson ...	...	...	63½
P. J. Cryan ...	...	...	50
T. Gaygan ...	...	...	49
A. G. Bradley ...	...	...	45½
T. Denmead ...	...	...	40

Swimming.—The Seymour Baths will again be available this year for training from April 28th—September 15th, with the exception of the month of August and Whit-Monday. If a team will enter there will be a Swimming Gala later in the season.

P. A.

Indoor Section.—The Club has arranged a Dance to be held at the Victory Club, near Marble Arch, on Friday, March 28th, 7.30—11 p.m. Ron Bell and his Orchestra. Tickets, 2s. 6d., obtainable at the Club.

The Committee hope, in view of the strong demand made at the Annual General Meeting for dances to be held, that Club members will come along in strength.

On February 1st the Indoor Section took a Darts team to the Loughborough Park Tavern, Brixton, where we had a jolly good evening, and, although defeated, we were not disgraced.

On February 25th we had a visit from Tottenham Constitutional Club. This time we more than held our own as we won games at cribbage and dominoes, and also defeated our visitors at darts.

Entries for the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prizes for Crib, Dominoes, Darts (T.B. and S.S. sections), close definitely on April 7th. Entries should be sent to Mr. Willis at the Club. C.J.W.

Bridge.—Both our teams have now finished their eight matches for their sections in the London Business Houses League.

G. Brown's team with W. Bishop, A. Wiltshire and L. Douglas, won 2, drew 1, lost 5.

P. Nuyens' team with H. Gover, F. Winter, R. Coles and C. Thompson won 4, drew 1, lost 3.

The last match played by P. Nuyens' team was particularly interesting, since it depended on a win or a draw whether they would again head their Section. Only winning teams of sections go into the Final, so we have to hope for another year.

A Bridge Drive was held at Headquarters on Saturday, March 8th, and we had eight tables. It was, as usual, a grand social gathering, and the prizes were won by: 1st, Jock Brown and Miss Hensley; 2nd, Bill Collins and Mrs. Waller; 3rd, Sammy Webster and Molly Burns. The party prize went to Jock Muir and Kathleen Mack.

We have played two matches during February and I regret to say that we lost both. One was against Purley Ladies and the other against our old friends, Messrs. Lyons.

H. G.

Lee-on-Solent Camp

Camp will be held this year from Friday, August 8th, to Saturday, August 16th. Entries please as soon as possible to Mrs. Spurway, The Vicarage, Holmwood, Dorking, Surrey.

The Budget Pensions Debated

Speaking in the Budget Debate on March 12th, Sir Ian Fraser said that he wanted, above all, to make a non-party speech and to deal with one particular subject. It was one which was a very long sustained concern of his—namely, the position of disabled ex-Service and other people.

There were some 750,000 ex-Servicemen and a few women who had been disabled in the two wars, about half in each. During the six years since the end of the second war, this country, through its Ministry of Pensions, had increased by special arrangements and allowances, the compensation paid to those most severely disabled (about 6 per cent. of the whole), to a very material extent. Most of those very severely disabled men now receive in money something like twice as much as they received when the war came to an end. There were still many whose compensation would be thought by any impartial inquiry to be inadequate, but by and large, the very severely disabled had been cared for by these special allowances. As a result of this, between £10 and £12 million had been added to the Budget of the Ministry of Pensions since the end of the last war.

The partially disabled—all those who have lost one limb or part of a limb, or who suffer from illnesses and disabilities which, while very hurtful and robbing them of many pleasures and handicapping them in their work, are nevertheless not in the severest categories—have been left with practically the compensation they were receiving before the war began, or when it came to an end.

The Chancellor had now, in one Budget, set aside some £10 million in order to raise the basic rate of war pensions by 10s. a week for those very severely disabled men, and by proportionate amounts for those less severely disabled, and for widows.

Whether this amount was enough or not, it was nevertheless a substantial amount. It came, of course, at a time when economies generally must be the rule, and it must be judged in the context of national affairs as we see them at the present time.

The amount of 10s. added to the existing pension of the most severely disabled man, taken in consideration with the 10s. comforts allowance introduced for some of these men last June, and extended to a wider

number a few weeks ago, raised the compensation of that class by quite a substantial amount.

But the partially disabled, numbering 650,000, have had no rise since 1946, when they received a percentage of the 5s. which was then added to the basic rate. Now 10s.—and a percentage thereof—has been added, and most of the higher disability men would be more than compensated for the rises which the Budget would entail.

The amount that those who suffer from the slightest disabilities—in the 20 and 30 per cent. grades—would receive may be but a token. Nevertheless, it was twice as much a token as they received in 1946.

Summing up, Sir Ian said he thought there would be some disappointment amongst ex-Servicemen generally that the amount of the increase did not bring their compensation to the point at which it should stand now, having regard to the fall in the value of the £, but it recognised certain principles which were very important. One was the principle that the standard basic rate was an attempt on the part of Parliament and the State to compensate these men for the disabilities from which they suffered as measured by a medical assessment. That the additional grant had been made to all, without regard to a means test or employability, met one of the principles which many had thought very important indeed. Secondly, this compensation was based far more on equity than on need in the strictest sense.

Sir Ian expressed his thanks to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and to the Ministry of Pensions for meeting the requests made to them to the extent they had done, and he congratulated the British Legion and other organisations, through their national bodies and their branches throughout the constituencies, for the way in which the matter had been brought to the notice of the House. No doubt the British Legion, in the years to come, as in the past, would continue to represent these men's views individually and collectively, and he hoped that as soon as affairs in our country rendered it possible, further steps would be taken to bring the compensation of their disabled comrades into line with the present value of money.

Captain M. HEWITSON (Hull, Central) said that it was with regret that he heard the hon. Member for Morecambe and

Lonsdale (Sir Ian Fraser) give thanks for the pittance that was being offered to the disabled ex-Servicemen. The 50 per cent. pensioner who was a married man with two children would now be penalised to the tune of 6s. per week if we took the figure of 1s. 6d. per head used by the Chancellor. This pensioner was going to have his social service stamp increased by 7d., making a total of 6s. 7d., and a generous Government was going to give him 5s. to meet that cost alone. The whole thing was manifestly unfair.

Sir I. FRASER: I know the hon. and gallant Member for Hull, Central (Capt. Hewitson) voted against the Labour Government in a debate on war pensions. He was one of two who did. If 100 had joined me then we should have got what we wanted three or four years ago.

Mr. JAMES SIMMONS (Brierley Hill) said that the hon. Member for Morecambe and Lonsdale (Sir Ian Fraser), after stressing the fact that he was going to make a non-political speech, had been very nice to the Front Bench and had inferred that the 10s. increase more than compensated the 100 per cent. disabled men for the economic loss they would suffer as a result of the Budget. He had read a letter in the "Legion Journal" in which the hon. Gentleman made it clear that what he said as President of the British Legion would not necessarily influence his action on the Floor of the House. He indicated that he might even be constrained, in certain circumstances, to vote against the Government if they refused to accept the plea for an increase in the basic pension. The British Legion had been campaigning, under the hon. Member's leadership, for a doubling of the basic rate, yet he now defended his Front Bench for having given a 10s. increase to meet this very grave and aggravated economic situation.

Sir IAN FRASER: I balanced what I said. I said that the increase was not adequate, but I also gave thanks where I thought thanks were due. The hon. Member was Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Pensions in the Labour Government, and he will remember that I thanked at least four Socialist Ministers for giving about one-tenth or one-twentieth of what has now been given by the Budget.

1952 Derby Sweepstake

This year the Derby will be run on Wednesday, May 28th, and we invite applications from St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees for tickets in our own Sweepstake. No other person can enter.

Tickets are 2s. 6d. each and application for them should be made as soon as possible and will be received up to the first post on Friday, May 16th. Every application must bear the name and address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required, and must be sent to the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. Postal orders should be made payable to St. Dunstan's and crossed. St. Dunstaners are advised to send postal orders or cheques and not loose money unless it is registered. Tickets will be issued consecutively.

The total money subscribed, less the cost of printing and postage, will be distributed as follows:—

50% to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse;

20% to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse;

10% to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse;

20% to be divided equally among those drawing a horse which actually starts in the race.

Mrs. Bates' Illness

Older St. Dunstaners and staff will hear with very deep regret that Mrs Chadwick-Bates, O.B.E., Secretary of St. Dunstan's from the early days until the end of 1931, and from then on Secretary and Representative of St. Dunstan's in the Union of South Africa, is seriously ill. Writing in the January "St. Dunstan's, South Africa, Review," Mr. H. Alers-Hankey, the Chairman in South Africa, says:

"Sir Ian and Lady Fraser paid a brief but welcome return visit to the Cape during December in connection with Sir Ian's business interests in South Africa.

Their arrival coincided with the somewhat serious illness which had previously overtaken our Organising Secretary, Mrs. Chadwick-Bates, the news of which has been received with deep concern by all friends of St. Dunstan's in South Africa and Overseas. Although at the time of going to press her medical adviser has issued a more encouraging report, he is of the opinion that a considerable time may elapse before she is able to resume active work."

News from Australia

In a letter to Headquarters, Fred Elliott, of Kingsword, New South Wales, writes:

"I have been having lessons on the type-writer and this is one of my early attempts at correspondence. I am one of the young old fellows from the 1914 show but did not lose my sight until about five years ago. At that time I imagined that I was too old to learn any new tricks, but after looking around and seeing what some of the local lads are able to do I soon got busy, pulled up my socks, and now I can do quite a number of the jobs that I was doing when I had my sight. I was in the R.N. before transferring to the R.A.N. and coming out here in 1913. Best of luck to all members of St. Dunstan's."

Good luck to you, Fred. You are doing fine!

★ ★ ★

P. Norris, of Nedlands, West Australia, is a St. Dunstaner who is doing a splendid job. His work is for the blind of Western Australia through the Braille Society, Perth. He conducts three sessions of radio broadcasting every week, during which he appeals for the aged blind. He has been doing this for nearly five years and during 1951 was instrumental in raising some £6,000 for a building appeal to erect a new wing at the Rest Home for the Aged Blind, near Perth.

★ ★ ★

From D. E. Williams, of Sandgate, Queensland, who has only recently gone blind, we have received some interesting details of his training by the Repatriation Department in Australia. He writes:

"We were given classes in Queensland last year by the Department at Rosemount Hospital, Brisbane. Amongst other fine speakers we had the chance of hearing Wing Commander Curtis-Willson, during his visit to Queensland. Let me say how much we enjoyed that visit and speak also of the information we new members learned of St. Dunstan's.

"At these classes we learned handicrafts, braille and typewriting. The Department has granted me training at the Queensland University as a student in Arts. I shall be concentrating on Philosophy and English with a view to trying free lance writing later. At the moment I have been working hard at Preparatory German, ready for lectures when they start."

National Library for the Blind

Annual Reading Competition

The twenty-third E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition will be held at the Library, 35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, on Saturday, May 17th, 1952.

The classes of interest to St. Dunstaners are:—

Class A. Advanced readers in competition for the Blanesburgh Cup.

Class B. Other readers.

Class C. Readers who have learnt to read braille since the age of 16 and who do not feel competent to enter the more advanced Classes. This Class will be divided into:

(1) Readers who lost their sight before 1938.

(2) Readers who have lost their sight since 1938.

OPEN COMPETITION. A special competition open to all readers eligible to enter Classes A and B and to all previous winners of the Open, Medal and Classes A, B and C, for the reading of a passage from "The Second World War" by Winston S. Churchill.

Intending competitors should send in their names to the Secretary of the Library, not later than Tuesday, 6th May.

Guild of Methodist Braillists

An interesting event in this Braille Centenary year has been the founding of the new Guild of Methodist Braillists.

The Hon. Secretary of the Guild is the Rev. Geoffrey Treglown, M.B.E., himself a St. Dunstaner. Mr. Treglown invites other St. Dunstaners to write to him from time to time, telling of their special needs in Methodist literature. His address is Pennar House, Newbridge, Monmouthshire.

Mrs. Carter Writes—

"Au revoir to my many friends in St. Dunstan's. By the time you read this, I shall have left dear old West House to be married. I have spent almost ten happy years with you and have loved every minute.

I shall be living at Stowfold Manor, Trowbridge, Wilts., my name, Bryant. Miss Oliphant's campers, please note. You will all know without being told how welcome a visit from any St. Dunstaner would be. My home will be open to you. Letters from you will be a great joy.

To my Staff in the Lounge a very sincere thank you for your loyalty and help, without which I could not have carried on.

BUNNY CARTER,
Lounge Sister

Are You a "Macrame Twiner"

The invitation to submit articles to the REVIEW providing interest to St. Dunstaners will probably urge some to try and pass on some of the lessons learned by experience in many spheres of activities, but with any necessary apologies to Instructors at the Training Centre.

One of our simple pastimes is making string bags, yet this has its "snags" which only experience can overcome.

Whereas we used to sit at a table to do this work, try to make it an armchair job as you listen to the radio or to your Talking Book. This can be done by preparing a piece of board 20 inches long by 12 inches wide and three-eighths inch thick, splay off one of the long sides to 14 inches to prevent scratching the insides of the chair arms when the board is resting on your knees. The board is of ample size for the frame and the tin containing the twine as you proceed to work the bag.

In place of the usual piece of tape or string round the frame at No. 1 peg, try putting two small round-headed screws on the bevelled edge of the frame just below the peg, and one screw below No. 31 peg, these are easily felt as the frame moves round.

The small screw at No. 31 peg eliminates the risk of starting at the wrong peg when casting off.

When using rings I always put an extra round on the pegs immediately after the rings have been placed on, so as to give a double twine through the rings.

When casting-off, try using a long No. 5 knitting pin with a knob on, and before commencing, stretch a rubber band over Nos. 1 and 2 pegs and over Nos. 30 and 31 pegs to prevent the loops from slipping off, removing the rubber bands when transferring the loops from the pin back on to the pegs. It is, however, useful to refix a rubber band on to Nos. 30 and 31 pegs whilst doing the final cast-off. Further, if you pull on the bottom of the bag as it comes away from each peg, you will find that there is very little gathering-up or narrowing of the bottom of the bag when casting-off is completed.

The board previously referred to will also be found very useful to have on your knees when you are reading Braille; it is really a portable table and useful for everyone in the home.

Ashton-in-Makerfield.

JIM SHAW.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I was very interested in W. T. Scott's criticism of St. Dunstan and the "accident" that brought the war-blinded of the first World War to carry the St. Dunstan's badge. To me the fact that the house "St. Dunstan's" was available as a training centre was not an accident but a God-send. I do not believe in accidents but in God's purpose in all things, no matter how trivial it may seem.

I was rejected for the Greenwich Royal Naval College as a boy because of a large cyst close to my left eye. The doctor said that I should almost certainly be blind in that eye later, when the roots grew behind it. Doctors did not dare to take these things out fifty-five years ago. I had a fight and the other boy tore the cyst out with his knuckles.

I emigrated and came home to England on a Booth Line ship called the S.S. Dunstan (still in commission). I was blinded in France on May 26th, 1918.

I was born to be blind, born to go to St. Dunstan's, as surely as the ship S.S. Dunstan was waiting to bring me back. I believe that God had a job for me to do, and to do it I had to become proficient in braille reading.

I believe that St. Dunstan's is more than a mere name, and we who carry the torch of St. Dunstan's should try to rekindle other spiritual flames in the minds of others who have come to doubt that there is any divine purpose, and that even creation and war are just "accidents."

Yours sincerely,

Castle Cary, Som.

A. J. RADFORD.

Mr. Lale

The Chairman, in his Notes, has referred to the forthcoming retirement of Mr. Lale, and many St. Dunstaners have expressed the wish to subscribe to a presentation to him.

Mr. Askew has offered to act as Honorary Treasurer of the Fund, and St. Dunstaners who desire to associate themselves with the presentation should send their subscriptions to him at 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1.

Placements

F. Nunn, Ilkeston, as a capstan operator with the Raleigh Cycle Company. Michael Oliver, West Wickham, as a shorthand typist with Messrs. Bailey Meters and Controls Ltd.

"Bill" Harris

William J. Harris will be remembered by St. Dunstan's walkers everywhere. He came to our Regent's Park quarters and acted as trainer and escort to many of our men and attended regularly Tuesday evening training. He took part in all our events, from 3 miles to 25 miles (at Maidenhead), and the 15 at Wembley, and was our guide and friend until the outbreak of war. When the Walking Section got going after the Second War, W. J. was the first man we turned to. He now acts as handicapper, judge, and general adviser—and what better man would we have, for he has an amazing record, and I think it will interest many of our sportsmen if I print a few of the highlights.

W. J., known as "Bill" to all his friends, is 54, 5ft. 10½in., and has been with London Transport (and its predecessors) for 38 years. In his off time he has footslogged the length of the Black Forest twice—and the Forest is 185 miles across—walked to the Lake District, and then roamed round for ten days, footed it to Wales and back, climbed among the mountains of the Austrian Tyrol and the Bavarian Alps, and spent a three week walking holiday in Brittany.

"Walking is in the family," he said, when congratulated on his fine record. His first love, however, was swimming. He was in the L.C.C. team after World War I, when he served as a wireless operator in the R.F.C. Then he did a bit of running—up to a mile. Then a spot of cycling. In 1923 he got the urge to walk, and fancied the London to Brighton Walk. He got as far as Crawley. In 1924, however, he finished the course in 10 hours 24 minutes. You'll notice he started the longest distance first.

Since then Bill has entered every Brighton Walk held up to 1948. He finished every time, except 1925 and 1948, when a chill and the worst conditions ever experienced in the history of the race compelled him to retire 12 miles from Brighton. He holds 20 medals—15 standards and 5 team—a record, for completing the Brighton Walks of 52 miles. In 1928 he was 5th, and his best time was 9 hours 1 minute. He is also a Centurion, a distinction he earned when he walked from London to Brighton and back in 1933.

As a member of the Tram and Trolley Bus Sports Association, Walking Section,

he has won every Association trophy for distances from 2 to 52 miles—the only member to win all trophies in one year, including the veterans' cup. Once, at Stamford Bridge, he entered a 1 mile running race, a two mile walk, and a two mile cycle race, and came third in each event—all in the same afternoon.

In 24 years Bill Harris has won 105 medals—one, which he greatly prizes, for representing Great Britain in a four day walk in Holland in 1928. In addition, he has won 160 prizes, including cups. He has walked more than 25,000 miles, and competed in over 500 events. He has many other interests. He has been a blood donor for many years. He himself has perhaps the best prize of all—good health.

Bill's advice to novices and newcomers is: Develop style first and foremost. Speed will follow. P. A.

In the House

Sir Ian Fraser asked the Secretary of the Treasury, on February 21st, what effect the new proposals for retirement from the Civil Service would have upon the special classes of ex-Servicemen who joined the Civil Service after the 1914-1918 war, and upon disabled ex-Servicemen.

Mr. J. A. Boyd-Carpenter said that the retirement policy which he announced on February 5th applied to all Civil Servants, including ex-Servicemen and disabled men. All Civil Servants between 60 and 65 years of age who wished to stay, and for whom there was useful work, would be retained so long as they were fit and efficient; and in judging the fitness of disabled men, due regard would be paid to their disability.

Blackpool Notes

This time of the year is usually rather quiet, but we enjoyed very successful outings to the Seafield Party, January 11th, and the Queen's Hotel Party, January 24th. On February 15th, at the special request of St. Dunstaners at the Home, we had a short service during the funeral of King George VI.

There were no big parties or outside entertainments on a large scale, but the four theatres per week were as popular as ever.

The doctor, having forbade an office atmosphere (flu!), all but the office counter and desk have been brought up to my newly enlarged room and I am finding it very pleasant, if rather cramped. B. V-D.

The Wheel

What a boon the wheel has been to man. I was very forcibly reminded of this fact some time ago when asked: "Which, of all man's discoveries and inventions, in your opinion, has contributed most to human progress?" After some profound thinking I unequivocally awarded the palm to the wheel, and, when my questioner said he expected me to say the brain, I reminded him that the brain is none of man's invention. But even the brain is indebted to the wheel from the fact that its principle, having lent itself to so many of man's activities, has stimulated the inventive faculty and assisted in developing the seat of intelligence and centre of consciousness. We have only to let our thought wander along the road of man's progress to appreciate the part played by the wheel in the construction of this road.

Let us ponder on some of the ingredients which have contributed to the building of the road: printing, which has brought the written word to the masses and facilitated the spread of learning and culture on a scale otherwise impossible; the industrial machine, producing a variety and supply of goods almost limitless; transport, especially modern transport, which has almost annihilated space and reduced the size of the globe, and at the heart of it all is the wheel.

How many of the millions using car, bus, train and plane, or checking the time on their watches, give a thought to what has made those things possible?

For the birth of the wheel we have to delve back into the story of primitive man. When our ancestors decided to settle on the land they had to improvise tools with which to till the soil, and for a roller they cut the middle part from the trunk of a tree, and so the first wheel was born.

The sources of power have changed from horse, wind water steam and electricity, but the medium for utilising that power still remains the wheel.

T. ROGERS.

St. Dunstan Robbed

Our sympathy to Charles Bargery, whose tobacconist's shop in Hornsey was raided in the early hours of March 6th. A brick was thrown through the shop window and cigarette lighters to the value of over £20 taken.

Talking Book Library February's Five

The reading contained in this handful of releases is good as well as varied. "Cat of Many Tails" is the book of the month winning by half a nostril from the other four.

"Henry VIII," by F. Hackett, reader Richard Wessell, is a serious biography of a picturesque and most effective monarch, which makes disgusting reading for anyone inclined to be squeamish, but for all his intriguing, Henry left behind him the basis of the Golden Age which followed later. Revolting reading and yet—I

"Ill met by Moonlight," by W. Stanley Moss, reader Norman Shelley, concerns Crete under German occupation. The kidnapping of the Commandant of the German garrison is both amusing and breathtaking, and the luck required to pull such a thing off was fantastic. Maybe it is a fairy story—I don't know!

"The Battle of Nerves and At the Gay Moulin," by Georges Simenon, reader Robert Gladwell, are a couple of satisfying detective stories. In the first, the pipe-smoking detective stakes his career that a man condemned for murder is innocent, re-opens the case by helping the condemned man escape, and after much excitement produces the correct murderer. All of that takes place in Paris. In the second story the scene shifts to Liège, where the same detective investigates a murder at the Gay Moulin, uncovering in the process a shadowy spy ring and a pair of youthful delinquents. Both tales are well told and not too lengthy. Fine light entertainment.

"Because of the Lockwoods" by Dorothy Whipple, reader Robin Holmes, is a romance of two families in which Lockwood, a solicitor, defrauds a widow and her three children at the start, and then exasperates the poor widow's family as patronising adviser until he is finally exposed and the bogey lifted. A pleasant, though somewhat ordinary, yarn.

"Cat of Many Tails," by Ellery Queen, reader Charles Richardson, has New York as a background. A multitude of nocturnal strangulations cause the Police Dept. to call in Ellery Queen to conduct investigations and New York suffers mass hysteria until the "Cat" is finally caught. Psychiatry is a strong element in the story, and it is all absorbingly horrible.

"NELSON."

South African News

News of a number of old friends comes to us through the January issue of the South African "ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW."

Ken McIntyre went back to his old school again on October 26th when he unveiled a plaque at Selbourne College, East London, bearing the names of men who had attended the College and who had died on war service.

Invalids have been Bill Riley who has had to undergo an operation but is fully recovered now; Jim Ellis who has been in hospital receiving treatment for a duodenal ulcer but is back on the active list again; and Jim Rawlinson who is still having to take a long enforced rest owing to a faulty heart action.

Belated birthday greetings go out to St. Dunstaner Ashworth, who celebrated his 81st birthday on November 28th.

Tom and Mabs Hart, with young Christopher, have sailed from Durban for Cape Town. Tom, who has been in charge of the Physiotherapy Department at King Edward's Hospital for the past three years, is taking up private practice at the Cape.

Margaret Mason, daughter of our St. Dunstaner in Pietermaritzburg, was married to Mr. Leslie Young, of Durban, on November 24th.

A Braille Centenary Lecture

The French Ambassador, His Excellency Rene Massigli, G.C.V.O., K.B.E., presided at a meeting at the Royal Society of Arts in London on March 5th, when a paper on "The Centenary of Louis Braille" was read by Mr. Vernon Barlow, Public Relations Officer of the National Institute for the Blind.

Mr. Barlow said that braille literature travelled from Britain to the far corners of the earth, and Britain's blind workers were producing goods and services valued at four million pounds a year. In remote lands braille presses were coming into being. A wealth of literature, volume upon volume of civilized thought and knowledge embodying centuries of human effort had seemed far beyond the reach of the blind, until a humble, selfless man, working in darkness, endured both blindness and tuberculosis to become one of the great benefactors of the human race.

No harm or hurt came to anyone from Louis Braille's victory; only succour for humanity in all the lands.

Decompression Test

Our old friend, Charlie Durkin, tells us that his son, who is an employee of B.O.A.C., has been chosen as an Engineer Officer, and is now training for that post. One of the tests he had to undergo was a "decompression" check at the R.A.F. School, Farnborough. Here are his impressions:

"Report at 9 a.m. for transport to Farnborough for 'decompression check.' That's what the voice on the telephone said, and in the morning, five of us set out on this mission with an empty feeling in our stomachs and forced jokes on our lips. We were greeted by the doctor and his assistant, fitted with oxygen masks and head-sets, briefed as to what was to happen, signed forms accepting the risk, relieved of our watches and pens, and, with a final cheery word, led into the tank. A few minutes to settle in, plug in oxygen, test inter-comm., find something to read, and the door clanged shut. In the distance the sound of a pump starting, and the climb to 25,000 feet has started. The air gets colder and very shortly we are told we are there. A few minutes' pause and the voice from outside says, 'The command will be "3-2-1-Go."' This is it! The moment we have waited for with, we all admit, trepidation. Oxygen high, all set, we acknowledge on the inter-comm., "3-2-1-Go." And it's happened. In about four seconds we have climbed to 40,000 feet, the change being marked by a hiss. For a few moments we sit in silence, broken only by five sighs of relief. Then we talk. There's nothing to it, etc., etc. A few minutes there, and the descent to ground level starts. Within about seven minutes we are down, the door is open, and we are out, to collect pens, watches, and, we feel, a well earned cup of tea."

From Miss Pain

I would like to send my grateful thanks to all St. Dunstan's Physiotherapists who so generously subscribed to the delightful presentation which was given to me on February 9th. Your gifts are in constant use and they are giving me so much pleasure. What I am wanting now is to welcome you all to my home, and you cannot guess with what pride I will be showing you the lovely presents you have given me.

DOROTHY PAIN.

Mr. Askew Honoured

At the Belgian Institute on Saturday, March 15th, M. de Loz, President of the Federation Nationale des Militaires Mutilés et Invalides de la Guerre, presented Mr. W. G. Askew, C.B.E., with a silver medal—the Medaille de la Reconnaissance de la F.N.I. (Civilian Branch). The Belgian Ambassador presided and representatives of the Belgian Armed Forces and of British societies, including Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, were present. The medal was a recognition of Mr. Askew's services as Secretary of St. Dunstan's to the well-being of the war-disabled generally and also of the services which St. Dunstan's has been able to render to Belgians, and of his advice given at an international conference held in Brussels.

Simpson Services Club

St. Dunstaners from Brighton and London were guests at Simpson's, the famous Piccadilly firm, on Friday, March 14th, when they enjoyed a cabaret and dance. Sir Neville and Lady Pearson, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, Mr. Askew, and the Commandant and Matron from Ovingdean were present. The guests were met and welcomed by Dr. S. Leonard Simpson, Major Huskisson and Mrs. Boyer. Simpson's have conducted a Services Club for many years, and St. Dunstaners have frequently been their guests. On this occasion, representatives of the physiotherapy students at the N.I.B. were also present.

Sir Neville and Sir Ian paid their tribute to Dr. Simpson and his colleagues for their great generosity and for the services they and all their staff had rendered to St. Dunstan's, as well as to ex-Servicemen generally.

Goods Left with Shopkeepers

St. Dunstaners may like to know of an interesting Bill which has been introduced to Parliament and is making some progress.

Under this Bill, any goods left with shopkeepers for repair, treatment, etc., and not collected after one year from the date that collection or delivery was to be made, may be sold by public auction by the shopkeeper unless a contract provides otherwise.

The shop-keeper, of course, must have made reasonable endeavours to trace the owner by writing to the known address, and before selling the goods he must formally notify the owner at that address as well as publicly announcing the sale.

Ovingdean Notes

An annual event each February, and one which is always enjoyed, is the Southdown Motor Bus Company's Dinner and Dance at the Black Lion Hotel, Patcham. This year it took place on the first day of the month, and a large party of local St. Dunstaners, men from West House, and some from Ovingdean, were entertained.

Our congratulations and thanks go to Mr. Cheesman once again for providing another of his regular dances at the Arlington, Brighton. This time he celebrated his dance centenary.

Shooting

During the month a shooting match was arranged between St. Dunstan's and the Brighton Police. The result? A win for St. Dunstan's (scores: St. Dunstan's 264 plus 4, against Brighton Police 264 plus 3). Our team consisted of Messrs. Redford, Walton (who scored the highest number of points—49 plus 2), Webster, Dennis, Osborne and Lipscombe.

The February monthly competition was won by No. 5 Team, consisting of J. Walton, C. Redford and H. Webster.

Teams of 3 competed, all teams firing against each other, making a total of 21 matches in all.

Darts

The monthly competition resulted in a win for T. Rogers (T.B.) and H. Webster (S.S.).

The demonstration darts team visited the Cippenham Estate, Slough, British Legion Branch, on Friday, February 22nd, where they were entertained by the Legion members. On arrival at Slough, and after the demonstration, the team enjoyed the generous hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Relf.

Sports

Local St. Dunstaners may be interested to know that the "Farmer Cup" St. Dunstan's Walking Race at Brighton will be held on Saturday, May 17th, this year, and will commence at 3 p.m. from the Brighton Aquarium. Further details later.

Ovingdean Sports Day.—The date has been fixed for Saturday, July 19th, and both Sir Ian and Lady Fraser will be present. The programme will follow the lines of last year. Mr. Jarrold hopes to have a record number of entries.

Grandfathers

P. Appleby, Luton (his third grandchild); F. J. W. Westaway, Yeovil (his second).

• The Rest of the News

Michael Oliver, of West Wickham, the youngest St. Dunstaner ever to come to us, started his first job on February 25th, as a shorthand typist. Michael was blinded when he was 13, while on manoeuvres with the A.T.C. He has been to Worcester College and to the N.I.B. College for the Blind at Bridgnorth. He is now 20.

★ ★ ★

Private Speakman, V.C., agreed to hand a cheque to a treble chance pools winner on one condition—that the pools firm gave a cheque of £100 to Stewart Craig, a young New Zealand soldier blinded in Korea, and whom Private Speakman had met there. Stewart is now at Ovingdean.

★ ★ ★

J. Nicol, of Hebburn, is standing as a Conservative candidate for the Urban Council at the elections in May.

★ ★ ★

F. C. Bentley, of Small Heath, Birmingham, has won a medal for dominoes. He is the only blind player in the league and, his wife says, he causes a sensation at every club he goes to play. She adds, "If they could see the jobs he does in the house since I have been so ill, they would swear he could see—he lets nothing beat him."

★ ★ ★

The keenest supporter at Southend United's Cup tie battle with Sheffield United was A. F. Lenderyou. Major Alfred Hay, the Southend chairman, heard of his interest and gave him tickets.

★ ★ ★

Tom Moorley, of Chaddesden, Derby, is Assistant Secretary of the local Horticultural Association. He is responsible for all the typing and official correspondence.

★ ★ ★

Ted Miller, of Leamington Spa, wrote an article for the Blind Veterans' Association in America, as a result of a meeting with an American visitor to Warwick Castle last summer. Ted is a guide to the Castle.

★ ★ ★

St. Dunstaners were among the Far East ex-prisoners of war at the Reunion and Festival of Remembrance, held by the Far East Prisoner of War Social Club at the Royal Albert Hall on February 16th.

J. W. Clare, of Brockenhurst, is a keen British Legion member, and he has recently made a very fine frame for a photograph of His Late Majesty the King, which has been presented to the Brockenhurst Branch by its Chairman, Lieut.-Col. F. Hacker. His local paper said "The frame is a fine specimen of his handicraft."

★ ★ ★

A message of thanks from the Queen has been received by Mr. and Mrs. S. Batten, of Bridgwater, who wrote a letter of sympathy upon the death of His Majesty King George VI.

★ ★ ★

Gerry Brereton was the guest artist at a Concert at the Royal Festival Hall, London, given by George Melachrino and his Orchestra, on March 8th. Gerry was billed as "the sensational new singer."

★ ★ ★

The death has just been reported of Jack Raine, at one time a trumpeter in Jack Hylton's band, who taught the trumpet to many of our trainees. They will hear of his death with regret.

★ ★ ★

"Andy" Needham has taken over a stationer's, tobacconist's and confectioner's shop at Swindon, which was opened officially on February 25th, by Lieut. Col. A. E. Beswick, President of Swindon British Legion.

Young St. Dunstaners

Denis Hicks (Palmers Green) passed in six subjects out of seven in his Certificate of Education.

Philumena Sephton is one of the principal dancers in "Oklahoma."

Doris Cunliffe, who is 16, has been chosen Eccleston British Legion Carnival Queen for 1952. The Carnival takes place on May 14th. There were twenty-five finalists.

Margery Shaw (Ashton-in-Makerfield) has received her silver medal for passing, with honours, the teaching grade examination—A.R.C.M.

Marriages

Ivor Green, Whittlesey, on February 9th, to Miss Eileen Teresa Wilson.

On December 22nd, Royston Ridley (Finchley) to June Hammond.

Maureen Cavanagh (Salford) to John Hamby.

“In Memory”

Private William Morton Allen, *South Wales Borderers*

With deep regret we record the death of W. M. Allen, of Scunthorpe.

He served with his regiment from August 28th, 1914, until July 13th, 1916, but although he was severely wounded in the head in 1915, it was not until as recently as 1948 that he came to St. Dunstan's. He was a permanent resident with us until December, 1951, when he joined his son. This happy home life, however, was very short, for he was rushed to hospital on February 26th and died a few days later.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his relatives, especially Mr. and Mrs. G. Allen.

Private Samuel Barlow, *1st Norfolk Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of S. Barlow, of Grimston, King's Lynn, at the age of 56.

Admitted to St. Dunstan's in June, 1915, he trained in mat-making and boot-repairing, and he carried on with mats until 1938, when he took up poultry. His death took place suddenly on March 6th.

The flowers at the funeral included a wreath of poppies from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

He leaves a widow and family, all of whom are grown up except a little girl of eleven. Our deep sympathy goes out to them.

Saddler John Edwards, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

With deep regret we record the death of J. Edwards, of London, N.W.1, well known to London Club members. He was 61.

Discharged from the Army in April, 1919, he came to us in 1923. He trained in joinery and continued that craft. He had, however, been ill for some time. He was admitted to St. Thomas's Hospital and he died there on February 28th.

The many flowers at the funeral included Sir Ian's wreath of poppies, and wreaths from colleagues of the London Club and from the British Red Cross. Those present at the funeral included Miss Ibbettson, Matron of the London Club, Mr. W. T. Scott, Streatham (St. Dunstan), and Mr. Charles Gibbon, of St. Dunstan's Staff. The British Red Cross and the Cricklewood and Willesden Branch of the Old Contemptibles were also represented.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his relatives.

Merchant Seaman Nils Nilsen

From South Africa we hear with deep regret of the death of Nils Nilsen, who passed away on November 7th, after a short illness. Nils will be remembered with affection by all who trained at Tembani. He was a Norwegian merchant seaman who was blinded as a result of stab wounds when he was attacked whilst his ship was in port at Durban. Blinded in a strange country, whose language he did not know, and not able to return to his native Norway, which was occupied by the enemy, fate had dealt Nils a cruel blow, and yet from the day of his arrival he proved himself an outstanding character. He was popular with trainees and staff alike. He soon learned to speak English well, and, his training completed, he was set up in a tobacconist kiosk in Wynberg. He lived alone and, until his illness, led a successful and almost entirely independent life. His example reflected great credit to St. Dunstan's, and all who knew him will mourn his passing.

Births

ASH.—On March 8th, to the wife of M. Ash, of Highbridge, Somerset, a son—Stephen John.

EDWARDS.—On March 16th, to Mrs. D. M. Edwards, of Yeovil, a daughter.

FOSTER.—On February 7th, to the wife of E. Foster, of Barnsley, a daughter.

HIGGINS.—On February 2nd, to the wife of T. W. Higgins, of Cricklewood, a son—Peter Robert.

NOLAN.—On February 25th, to the wife of J. Nolan, of Acton, a son—David John.

VERSTER.—On November 8th, to the wife of John Verster, of Somerset West, South Africa, a son—John Raymond.

WATKINS.—On March 2nd, to the wife of D. Watkins, of Aylesbury, a daughter—Patricia Anne.

WILSON.—On January 9th, to the wife of R. G. Wilson, of Littleton, near Somerton, a son—Robert Lindsay.

Marriages

BUTTERY—BINGHAM.—On December 29th, at St. Giles, West Bridgeford, Frank Buttery to Miss Muriel Francis Bingham.

WILLIAMS.—In Australia, A. D. Williams, recently of Petersham, and now of Strathfield, N.S.W., Australia.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

GIMBRERE.—To Alice Gimbriere, of Wembley, whose baby son, David Angus, died on February 29th.

STREET.—To W. Street, of Evesham, in the loss of his sister, on February 28th.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 393—VOLUME XXXV

APRIL, 1952

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

ROYAL THANKS

The following message has been received from Buckingham Palace:—

The Queen and the Queen Mother were deeply touched by the flowers which were sent to Windsor for the funeral of King George the Sixth.

Their Majesties wish to record how greatly they valued these expressions of affection and loyalty, and to thank all who joined in paying this tribute to The Late King's memory.

WHAT'S IN A NAME ?

(Contributed)

RECENT articles and broadcasts have led many people with enquiring minds to ask how the name "St. Dunstan's" came to be applied to our organisation, and whether Saint Dunstan is, in fact, recognised as our patron saint.

The answer to the first part of the enquiry was given during the Boxing Day broadcast from Ovingdean, when the announcer, Franklin Engelmann, asked Miss Pain how the organisation came to be known as "St. Dunstan's," and Miss Pain explained how the very long title by which the organisation was originally known became so unwieldy that the blinded men themselves began to use the name of the house in Regent's Park, London, to describe the body or organisation to which they belonged. Thus, in quite a simple and almost natural way, emerged the title "St. Dunstan's" as we now know it.

The second part of the enquiry has probably brought very many doubtful affirmative answers from those not fully aware of the facts, since, at first sight, the name suggests patronage having been adopted, whereas it appears that not until early this year was the definite proposal made that we should share Saint Dunstan with the Goldsmiths' Company, who consider him their patron saint.

How does this proposal stand when we remember that Saint Cecilia is the acknowledged patron saint of the blind as well as of musicians? Here we appear to be getting on to very doubtful ground, and the proposal seems to invite further inquiry before it is regarded as accepted by our organisation. One cannot imagine that there is any desire to sever ourselves from a long established patronage which, so far as the blind are concerned, is all embracing and comprehensive.

The fame of Saint Dunstan lay in his great work of reformation and religious teaching. As Abbot of Glastonbury his monastery became a famous centre of learning. He was Bishop of Worcester and later Bishop of London, and in 959 Edgar made him Archbishop of Canterbury, where he laboured to elevate the Clergy and make them teachers of the people in every sense. He carried out many changes which brought lasting benefits not only to the Church, but to the people as a whole.

From this brief historical reference there does not appear to be any link between the saint and the blind sufficient to justify his adoption as guardian saint.

Again, are we all convinced that Mr. Alfred Noyes, in his beautiful lines of poetry, attempted to make Dunstan the saint of the blind? Surely Mr. Noyes is appealing to Our Lord Himself and not to Saint Dunstan as a mediator between Christ and "all who journey by night." The title of the poem compels one to the belief that he intended it to be a prayer for St. Dunstaners in particular, and for blind people generally. This seems to be more appropriate.

In the February issue of the REVIEW a correspondent showed himself ready to agree with the proposals for the adoption of Dunstan as our patron saint, yet he shudders to think how unfortunate it would be if the name "St. Dunstan's" gave the impression that the saint had anything to do with our creation, simply because some legends and myths about him had been disclosed at a certain banquet. In all fairness we must appreciate that only very great and outstanding persons have become saints, and we must discredit all fabulous legends and myths in assessing greatness. The same correspondent said that our name, as an institution, is merely accidental. Would it not be better to say that it arose out of "customary usage," for we know that "customary usage" in all aspects of life becomes the accepted way both in deeds and in words.

JIM SHAW.

First Reunion of 1952

On Wednesday, April 2nd, the first Reunion of the year was held at Maidstone. In spite of the fact that he had been at the House of Commons until three o'clock that morning, Sir Ian Fraser, with Lady Fraser, was present at the Reunion. Sir Ian in his speech referred to the recent pension increase as "disappointing and not altogether satisfactory," and assured his listeners that the British Legion was continuing its campaign.

A guest of honour at the meeting was Lt. Colonel C. Gordon Larking, C.B.E., J.P., former national chairman of the Legion, and other guests included Mrs. Larking, Miss Pain, Mr. Ottaway, Mr. George White and Mr. Pantom.

Camp News

There will be no Shawbury Camp this year.

The Royal Naval Barracks, Lee-on-Solent, Hants. Friday, August 8th to Saturday, August 16th. Camp fee, £1 10s. Fares repaid over £1. Entries close May 10th. Please send your names in as soon as possible to: Mrs. Spurway, The Vicarage, Holmwood, Surrey.

Her Majesty's Birthday

On April 21st, the following telegram was sent to Her Majesty the Queen's Private Secretary—Please convey to Her Majesty the Queen the loyal congratulations of all St. Dunstaners on her Birthday.

NEVILLE PEARSON, *President*.

The following telegram has been received by Sir Neville Pearson—I thank you most sincerely for your kind congratulations on my birthday.

ELIZABETH R.

R.A.O.B.

J. Jackson, of Patcham, has been chosen by his Lodge to go to Blackpool in June as a representative to the Convention there.

Derby Sweepstake

The closing date of our Derby Sweepstake is **Friday, May 16th**. Application should be made to the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. Tickets are 2s. 6d. each.

The draw will take place at the London Club, 191 Marylebone Road, on the evening of Friday, May 23rd. All those drawing a horse will be notified.

St. Dunstan's London Club

Indoor Section Notes

The Indoor Section are arranging a trip to the Derby on Derby Day, May 28th. Will any St. Dunstaner wishing to go let Mr. Willis know as soon as possible, so that he can make all arrangements in good time.

A Dance was held at the Victory Club on March 28th, which was fairly well attended; everyone there had, I think, a very happy evening. We will try to arrange another later in the year.

The Indoor Section has had a busy time during March; on March 10th we were visited by the Christ Church Men's Society, from Dartford, when an enjoyable evening was spent by all who attended. The Darts team won by two straight games.

On March 24th we were visited by the British Legion Club, from Addiscombe. This, again, was a very enjoyable party, and, among other events, our Darts team were again victorious.

On April 4th a party from the Club were invited by the Shell-Mex Social Club to play a Darts match against them. This was preceded by a most enjoyable tea, and everyone soon got together.

Again, the Darts team won by two straight games; they are getting very consistent. This was a champion evening.

C. J. WALKER.

12 Mile Walk Result

	Race	All.		Time	H'cap
A. Brown	2nd	4-45	109-45	114-30	2nd
W. Miller	—		Retired		
T. Gaygan	1st	Scr.	110-00	110-00	3rd
C. Stafford	4th	15-10	113-25	128-35	4th
S. V. Tutton	5th	17-45	113-30	131-15	5th
C. Williamson	3rd	7-05	108-55	116-00	1st

Total Aggregate Points to Date

A. Brown ...	88 pts.	T. Gaygan ...	67 pts.
C. Stafford ...	87 pts.	P. J. Cryan ...	50 pts.
S. Tutton ...	85 pts.	A. G. Bradley	45½ pts.
C. Williamson	83½ pts.	T. Denmead...	40 pts.
W. Miller ...	69 pts.		

Outdoor Section

In October there will be a Swimming Gala. Will all those wishing to enter please hurry up and inform Mr. Dawkins at Headquarters as soon as possible.

There will be a 7 mile Walk at Brighton on May 17th (for the Farmer Cup). All entries should be in well before this date.

More News from Australia

In one of the cheeriest letters ever received at Headquarters, J. (Bill) Seabrook of Victoria, Australia, says he is very glad to say that he has only one complaint (which he wishes on to us) and that is that he cannot find anything to moan about.

One of his difficulties, however, is getting about. He writes: "I think that I started out wrongly by carrying a stick just before the shutters came down. Even with a guide holding my arm, I cannot keep a straight course. Since reading Sir Ian's book, I have started to walk with my guide, but still with a stick, and am doing very well and should improve. Going into town one day I had the company of a blind man of World War 2. He told me he could find any shop or street in Melbourne without a stick and no guide. I told him that if I turned round on my front lawn, which is 44ft. by 25ft. less flower and hedge space, I could not get back to the front door. His answer was that I had lost my sense of direction. Any suggestions, please? Of course, you can come up with the bright suggestion to tie a piece of string to the door handle and the other end around my neck, leaving both hands free, but I know you won't."

Real Pleasure

Before the fog descended I used to hear many sounds but never realised how beautiful some of them were. Until we learn to listen many that we hear go by unappreciated. Never will I forget my first hour in Longmynd. I was taken to my bedroom and there it seemed for the first time I heard the wonderful music of nature. Never before had I listened to such melody, in the bird songs, the whispering in the trees, the bleating of the lambs, or known such tranquillity. I realised a little how composers and poets have been inspired to pour out their genius in praise of nature. Then too, how very pleasant can be the sound of raindrops. I remember the little valley past Tiger Hall with the reservoir at its head. There, as I listened to the rippling brook, with its changing moods from rapture to reverie, it seemed that time stood still. In the ancient sanctuary nature sang in praise of its Creator, and one felt that to tread there was sacrilege. To hear such music, and to feel such peace, is indeed to experience true happiness.

Newcastle-on-Tyne.

JOHN CRUSE.

The British Legion

Some Questions—

1. Is the Legion a charity supported by voluntary contributions, or is it an organisation of subscribing members who cease to be members if they fail to pay the subscriptions?

2. Has it a correspondence branch or membership for those whose disability makes it impossible for them to attend meetings, etc.?

3. Are there any social visitors to the sick and badly disabled?

4. Have they any convalescent or holiday homes built, equipped and staffed for the badly disabled?

5. Are their local branch buildings constructed to allow easy access for an invalid chair?

6. Are the different types of disabled adequately represented at important debates and discussions?

7. How many members are totally disabled compared with the number of physically fit?

8. Do the latter ever visit the former, or ever visit such places as West House and Ovingdean?

GEORGE FALLOWFIELD.

—And Answers

The Press and Publicity Officer of the British Legion replies:

1. The Legion is an organisation of subscribing members, etc., but it gives help to all ex-Servicemen and women and their dependants in need, through Poppy Day funds, and, in many Branch areas, also through Branch Appeal funds, locally subscribed. Incidentally, £40,000 of the Poppy Day money raised is earmarked for St. Dunstan's.

2. Many Branches run their own bulletins, but the Legion Journal, if taken, would give them general Legion news.

3. Many Branches make it a point to have visits paid to sick members in their homes and sick and disabled ex-Servicemen in hospitals and other institutions.

4. There are four convalescent homes and four permanent retirement, or country, homes. The residents in the latter are either old or disabled. There is no provision in convalescent homes for constant bedside attendance, but the Legion does assist paraplegics to have holidays at camps specially designed for them.

5. There are 5,400 Branches, and one cannot generalise an answer to this question.

6. The same answer applies as to question 5.

7. Impossible to answer, as Branches do not take such a census among their members.

8. In good Branches the well do visit the sick and disabled, and I understand that Legion Branches in the neighbourhood of St. Dunstan's Homes take a great interest in them. A great number of Legion Branches take an active interest in Legion country and convalescent homes.

Talking Book Library

Martial March

Four books, including two more volumes of "The Second World War," see the light of the library day this month.

"The Second World War," by Winston S. Churchill, reader Duncan Carse, volume III, "The Grand Alliance," deals with the blackest period of the war overseas. Set-backs in the Western Desert; Greece, Crete and East Africa to cope with; Hitler's Russian adventure; the entry of Japan and the U.S.A.; Malaya and Burma fall and Australia is threatened. Volume IV, "The Hinge of Fate," shows the turn of the tide, North Africa invaded and cleared, Sicily taken, less success for the submarines. Had Mr. Churchill spread himself, these four volumes might just as easily have been twenty-four. A most competent and masterly historical précis.

"London Belongs to Me," by Norman Collins, reader Lionel Gamlin, traces the lives of the boarders at 10 Dulcimer Street. Mr. Josser, a retired City clerk, and his wife; Doris, his daughter, and Ted, his son; Percy Boon, a garage hand, and his mother; Mr. Squales, a Spiritualist; Mrs. Vizard, the owner of the premises; Mr. Puddy, a night watchman; and little old Connie, a cloak-room attendant. The tragedy somehow descends into farce and overall the story is a mass of threads brightly though a little pathetically woven. Fine entertainment!

"Gentle Greaves," by Ernest Raymond, reader Eric Gillett, is the autobiography of a retired publisher, who after the last war buys the house in which he spent his childhood, settles down with his adopted daughter and writes his story. The tale is beautifully and feelingly told. Pleasant, soothing, reading with no serious upset to disturb its even flow.

"NELSON."

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Over the past three years I have attended quite a number of functions to which St. Dunstaners have been invited. These affairs have been both social and otherwise. The ones I term otherwise have been little meetings, maybe to show respect to someone, to commemorate or honour.

One fact has struck me rather forcibly, too forcibly, the second war men do not show up in numbers to compare to the first war men.

I attend the London Club; very many more of the older men are there than the younger. I attend a service or pay homage to a name, and find I am but one of maybe two, or maximum three, second war men there, amongst maybe fifteen first war.

I on occasions visit a social function, a dance or show, and find many second war men there—men who cannot turn up for a less social affair, men who cannot get to places because it is too early, too awkward or some such reason, but if it is a social do, then all the excuses are lacking.

As I say, I visit few social affairs, but I ask my friends of War I who were at the show or party, and find men I knew at Stretton there, but I never see them at the more serious functions.

I hear on occasion that the general public are surprised that more younger men do not show up. I know that the attendances are noticed by our *friends* in Headquarters, and of course they must not say what is in their mind, but I feel that I, as a St. Dunstaner, can. Now then, men of 1939-45, why not make an effort, why not try to attend some of the functions other than "free do's" or parties?

I ask you, as a second war man, to take up the baton; our older comrades of 1914-18 have run a good race, surely it is up to us to get into stride. You, as I do, will find pleasure in meeting folk, not only at some party, but at some more serious affair, and, like myself, will find that there are friends to be made at both.

I am afraid I shall not meet you at many theatres or shows, or even parties, but I look forward to shaking your hand at some affair where we attend as men of thought and not as playboys.

Yours very sincerely,

Tottenham.

JOHN MUDGE.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was deeply interested in the letter by A. J. Radford. He certainly has got something there. Such faith is enviable. To a great extent, I agree with him. St. Dunstan's was no accident.

Predestination? Maybe: God is all:

There is no evil devil and no fall:

Man cleaves triumphant to his God on high,

And thus believing: Knows: he cannot die.

But what of the others?

Oh Saviour Christ, our woes dispel,

For some are sick, and some are sad;

And some have never loved Thee well,

And some have lost the love they had.

I was born on July 4th, and have always had inspiration from this "accident."

I had faith but I seem to have lost it now.

Yours sincerely,

ANTHONY LAW.

Pensax, Stockton.

DEAR EDITOR,

Tucked away in wallets, drawers, pigeon holes, and many other places, are Little Scraps of Paper which bear the heading "Post War Credit."

These scraps of paper represent the nation's debt to hundreds of thousands of its people, yet unless you are 65 years of age no holder of any of those scraps can obtain one penny of it.

If you die before your 65th birthday, your next of kin can get it, providing they are 65.

Millions of pounds have been squandered by past Governments on crazy schemes, and still more millions are being given or lent to our late enemies so that they can get on their feet and compete against us in the commercial trade all over the world. Those countries cannot manufacture armaments, so while we are re-arming they can manufacture, with money supplied by the British taxpayer, goods for export, and so deprive us, to a great extent, of our export trade.

Yet our Government cannot pay a small debt to its own people. We are being told that we are in a bad state financially, but I have been on this earth nearly 48 years and have not, during that time, known any country, large or small, to go bankrupt—they have changed their names, or been taken over by other countries as the result of war.

It is about time the Government paid its debt, and by so doing enable thousands to obtain that which they have wanted so long.

It would not cost much, and surely the Government would get a large amount of it back in Purchase Tax, and many people would invest it in War Bonds, etc.

What do other readers think?

Yours sincerely,
BILL EDWARDS.

Brighton.

Air Mail Rates for Braille Literature and Letters

As from May 1st, Braille literature, including personal correspondence, may be sent by air mail at the rate of 3d. for 2 oz. to any destination outside Europe and to the countries of Iceland and Poland.

For all countries in Europe (with the exception of Iceland and Poland) Braille literature may be sent up to 2 lb. in weight for $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Young St. Dunstaners

Leslie Jordan (Mitcham) has just obtained his National Certificate in Electrical Engineering, Higher Grade.

Marriages

On February 22nd, at the British Embassy, Paris, Jean Smith (Parbold) to Douglas John Smith.

Jean Sylvia Price (Forest Gate), on March 22nd, to Fred Richardson.

On March 29th, Edward Maskell (Hunmanby).

Jean Rose (North Berwick), on March 8th, to Norman Ross Pratley, of Glamorgan.

Brenda Mears (Old Chilwell, Beeston), on February 16th, to Cyril Cossall.

David Wyndham Davies (Llandyssul), on March 15th, to Miss Ann Dorothy Price.

Kathleen Norma Whitthorn (Exeter), on March 22nd, to Kenneth Addicott.

Jack Sainty (Woodford Bridge), on March 26th, to Miss Pamela Vine; and on March 29th, Arthur Sainty to Miss Ivy Fellows.

Gloria Rushton (Heaton), on March 29th, to Neil Nichol.

Dorothy Thomas (Shirley, Birmingham), on March 29th, to Andrew Waller.

Ovingdean Notes

From time to time trainees at Ovingdean have been invited by Sir Ian to visit the House of Commons, and on every occasion those fortunate enough to go have come back to Brighton having enjoyed every moment of the time spent in London. The latest party to go was made up of seven trainees and two members of the Staff. Of the seven St. Dunstaners, three were from the Dominions, who had only come to the Training Centre at the beginning of this year. After listening to "Question Time," the party was entertained to lunch by Sir Ian, and later still were fortunate enough to obtain admission to the House of Lords, as it was not in session at the time. The police on duty permitted the entrance, and the men were allowed to walk round and feel the carving and the Woolsack.

The Spring Term came to an end on April 8th, and the building began to fill up with holidaymakers for Easter week-end. The weather was exceptionally good, and we learned that several men went in for a swim, though the general verdict was "a little early for that sort of thing!"

The Easter programme provided, we hope, something to please most of our visitors. There was racing at Plumpton, which was well patronised. For those who preferred to take it easy there were several coach drives and, of course, the week-end was well rounded off with the Easter Monday Dance.

Chess Week-end

The Chess week-end was held at Ovingdean from March 21st to 24th. The number of contestants was very small, but those present enjoyed the week-end very much. The winner was W. Hodder, who is a trainee at Ovingdean, and was competing for the first time. Second place was won by H. Porter, and third came J. Scott.

On the Sunday afternoon a friendly game was played with the team of schoolboys from Brighton Schools and Brighton College.

Farmer Cup Walk—Brighton

Local St. Dunstaners are reminded that this seven miles Walking Race will take place on Saturday, May 17th next, starting at 3 p.m. We hope there will be a good crowd to cheer the competitors on their way.

Rest of the News

St. Dunstaners N. F. S. Nunn, J. Langton, and S. Fowler, all employed at Raleigh Cycles, Ltd., Nottingham, were photographed with the well-known film star, Joan Rice, when she visited their factory recently. Joan Rice has scored a success as "Maid Marian" in the film "Robin Hood."

★ ★ ★
D. E. ("Duggie") Cashmore, who is employed at the Elliott Works, was mentioned in the Works Magazine recently. He and a legless ex-soldier were described as "two brave men—two employees who have triumphed over apparent disaster to take a full and useful part in factory life. Mr. Cashmore has knocked the "dis" out of disabled. . . ."

★ ★ ★
Frank James, of Hove, who last year swept all before him in the Wingham Cup cribbage competition, organised by Hove British Legion, has repeated the performance, defeating five opponents and not conceding a single game in the semi-final or final.

★ ★ ★
When the Duchess of Gloucester visited his factory on March 19th, Charles Hancock, of West Drayton, was introduced to Her Royal Highness, who chatted with our St. Dunstaner for some time. An excellent photograph was taken.

★ ★ ★
E. Bradford, of Sheffield, has won a prize for his bulbs at a party for local blind people.

★ ★ ★
Harry Read, who is a telephonist at the Tower of London, appeared in the latest photograph of the permanent staff there, by special request of the Commanding Officer of the Depot.

★ ★ ★
Albert Worlidge pays high tribute to St. Mary's Hospital and to Sir Arthur Porritt, surgeon, for their splendid care during his recent stay in hospital.

★ ★ ★
Mrs. Markwick, wife of our St. Dunstaner, has been made President and Life Member of the North Moulsecoomb Women's Branch of the British Legion.

Placement

J. Robson, as telephonist with the Sunderland Area Hospital Management Committee General Hospital.

Births

EDWARDS.—On March 16th, to Mrs. D. M. Edwards, of Yeovil, a daughter.

ELLIS.—On April 5th, to the wife of G. Ellis, of St. Helens, a daughter—Christine.

HIGGS.—On March 26th, the wife of E. G. Higgs, of Reading, a son—Alvin Keith.

LITTLE.—On March 24th, to the wife of A. Little, of Carlisle, a son.

MINTER.—On August 8th last, to the wife of J. R. Minter, of Southall, a daughter—Gillian Lesley. (We must apologise for the lateness of this notice, which has only just been received.)

NORTHWOOD.—On April 6th, to the wife of L. D. Northwood, of Plympton, Plymouth, a daughter—Victoria Ann.

ORMOND.—On March 28th, to the wife of J. Ormond, of Burgess Hill, a son—Renny Richard.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes to the following:

COXON.—To Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Coxon, of Blyth, whose son, Jimmy, died on April 3rd, after a long illness. He was 19.

WILLIAMS.—To D. J. Williams, of Llandaff, in the loss of his father.

WOOD.—To Mr. and Mrs. Philip Wood, of Hyde, Cheshire, whose son, Peter, has died after much suffering. He was just beginning his Secondary School career.

Marriage

MOORE—WOOD.—On December 8th, at Blackpool, George Moore, late of Folkestone, to Mrs. M. Wood.

Grandfathers

G. Furniss, of Telscombe Cliffs; J. F. Davey, of Swanage; L. Forrester, Glasgow. H. Allsopp, Smethwick, Birmingham; D. Murphy, Glasgow.

Test Results

Typing.—G. Chisholm, J. J. Fulling, J. W. Taylor, J. Walton, L. Scales, H. Taylor, J. Mosley, F. Buttery, W. Hodder, P. Walker, Mrs. D. Edwards, J. Pryor, R. Beales, E. Proffitt, G. Wagner (S.A.), K. Branson, J. Dennis.

Preliminary.—J. J. Fulling, C. Phillips R. Towner, J. Fraser, B. M. T. Leete, J. Pryor, G. Wagner (S.A.).

Writing.—J. Fulling, R. Major, S. Jones, R. Towner, C. Phillips, A. Robinson, W. Burnett, J. Pryor, R. Cameron.

Interpoint.—S. Jones, R. Major, W. Flowers, R. Mendham.

“In Memory”

Private Claude Herbert Merewether, *Royal Army Medical Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of C. H. Merewether, of Portland Bill, Dorset. He was 68.

Discharged from the Army in March, 1919, it was not until October, 1950, that he came to us. He did not receive training, but his association with St. Dunstan's in the last two years of his life brought him much happiness, and his hobby of poultry-keeping kept him quietly occupied and contented.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was sent for the funeral.

Our St. Dunstaner was a single man and lived with his brother and sister, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Private Frederick Joseph Foster, *2nd Devons*

With deep regret we record the death of F. J. Foster, of Brixton, Devon, at the age of 62.

A regular soldier before the 1914–1918 war, he was wounded at Neuve Chapelle, and came to St. Dunstan's in May, 1916. He trained first in boot-repairing—which he carried on for some years—and later in mat-making, which craft he continued to the time of his last illness eight weeks ago.

A wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's comrades was sent for the funeral, which took place at Battersea Cemetery, Lower Morden, London, S.W.19.

He leaves a widow and daughter, to whom our very sincere sympathy is sent.

Private William Thomas Pratt, *London Scottish*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. T. Pratt, of Merton Park, London, at the age of 57.

He was wounded in September, 1916, and entered St. Dunstan's the same year, being trained as a shorthand typist, and he continued in this work until he was taken ill in February of this year.

Among the flowers at the funeral at South London Crematorium was a wreath of poppies from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends. Representatives of his firm were present.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and daughter.

Private William Thomas Harris, *North Staffs. Labour Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of W. T. Harris, of Grantham, at his home on March 2nd, a St. Dunstaner well known to many of us.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1922, and trained as a basket-maker, and he carried on with his craft for many years. In latter years, however, he had suffered greatly, being more or less an invalid.

Among the flowers at the funeral was Sir Ian's wreath of poppies.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his family, and particularly to his sister, Miss K. Harris, who had nursed him for so long.

Private Harry Edge, *Royal Flying Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Harry Edge, of Burnley.

After his discharge, in 1917, from the Royal Flying Corps—he was blinded while at work on a 'plane—he came to St. Dunstan's in September of that year, and trained as a poultry farmer and mat-maker. He retained his interest in mats right up to the time of his death and was, in fact, moving a bale of mats when he was taken ill very suddenly and died on March 19th.

After a private service in the house for members of his family, he was laid to rest in the lovely little parish churchyard in the village of Worstholme, Burnley. Amongst the many floral tributes was a wreath of poppies from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow, son and daughter-in-law.

Private George Swindell, *6th Sherwood Foresters*

With deep regret we record the death of G. Swindell, of Nottingham, who came to St. Dunstan's after he had been wounded on the Somme in 1918. He trained then as a basket-maker, but in a very short time he returned to his old employers, Messrs. Players, and only retired from their service a short while ago. His death occurred in hospital on February 29th, after a short illness.

A poppy wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's comrades was sent for the funeral.

We extend our deep sympathy to his wife and family.

Gunner Percival Herbert Crafter, *Royal Field Artillery*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of P. H. Crafter, of Battersea, who must have been one of our youngest St. Dunstaners of the 1914–1918 war, for he was only fifty-three at the time of his death.

He lost his sight and was badly gassed in France and came to St. Dunstan's in November, 1935. He trained for telephony, but ill-health forced him to give this up. He then trained in joinery and carried on this work until 1948, but hoped to continue again when his son was out of the Army. He died at his home on April 11th after a long spell in hospital most cheerfully borne.

He leaves a widow, son, and daughter to whom our deep sympathy is offered.

Rifleman Bertie Frank Jones, *13th King's Royal Rifles*

With deep regret we record the death of B. F. Jones, of Greenwich, at the age of 65.

He was wounded at Arras and came to St. Dunstan's in December, 1918. He trained in boot-repairing and mat-making and worked at this for many years. When he gave this up he turned to netting. St. Dunstan's wreath of poppies, from Sir Ian Fraser, was among the many flowers at the funeral. He was a widower, and our very sincere sympathy goes out to his family.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 394—VOLUME XXXV

MAY, 1952

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

St. Dunstaner Chairman of the N.I.B.

GODFREY Robinson, who has just been elected Chairman of the National Institute for the Blind, entered hospital shortly after I had recovered from the early shock of my wound and I was, I think, the first to visit him from St. Dunstan's and tell him about our organisation. He and I have been friends and colleagues in work for the welfare of the blind ever since. His father founded and developed one of the most important food distributing organisations in this country and when Robinson had learnt his way in the world of the blind at St. Dunstan's, he returned to the family business where he played an important part as a director. By the time the second war came and his younger brothers had gone off to serve in the Armed Forces, he occupied a key position and apart from playing his full part in managing the family firm, he sat on many national committees concerned with the distribution of food. He had a flair for public life and early took an interest in local matters, and in 1941, he became Sheriff of Hull. He also took a keen interest in the welfare of the blind and soon after his return from the first war became interested in the Hull and East Riding Institute for the Blind of which he subsequently became Chairman, and in 1922 he joined the Council of the National Institute for the Blind. He worked very hard in this field, coming frequently to London and taking an active part in committee work, and in 1945 he was appointed Vice-Chairman of the National Institute for the Blind under the Chairmanship of General Lord Ismay. Now that Lord Ismay has gone to Europe to become Secretary General of N.A.T.O., he has had to resign from the chairmanship and Godfrey Robinson has been appointed in his place. This is a high honour for any man and I rejoice that the office should be held by a blind man. It is a testimony to his ability and his powers of chairmanship that he should be chosen for so high a post, and all St. Dunstaners will offer him congratulations.

The N.I.B. co-ordinates the work of the blind community and is the representative body responsible generally in England and Wales for the Welfare of the civilian blind and they are also the largest publishers of braille literature in the British Empire and probably the world. They are responsible also for representing affairs relating to the blind to Government. It follows, therefore, that there are many fields in which St. Dunstan's and the N.I.B. serve a similar purpose and I am happy to say that largely through the friendship between Godfrey Robinson and me, and through a recognition of our common interest by all concerned, a very happy relationship has developed between our two bodies.

We are privileged to share in the advantages of the education provided by the Physiotherapy School of the National Institute, we co-operate with them in inventions, and together we finance and operate the Talking Book. These are fruitful fields for good work which can be better done by the two of us than by either of us separately.

Many St. Dunstaners in the countries of the Commonwealth have played an important part in the work for the blind as a whole, and none has done more over a period of years than Godfrey Robinson.

As a subaltern in the Royal Field Artillery he was awarded the M.C. He is a keen member of the British Legion, Vice President of the East Riding County, and has held other high office.

Canucks and Aussies

Both Australian Diggers and Canadian veterans have their societies in the United Kingdom and I happened to go to both their annual dinners during the last month. The Rt. Hon. Viscount Bruce of Melbourne, Patron of the Australian Ex-Service Association, referred to the strength of the Returned Soldiers' League in Australia. At the Canadian dinner, Field Marshal the Rt. Hon. Earl Alexander of Tunis was the guest of honour, his first public engagement since leaving the office of Governor-General to be Minister of Defence. After paying tribute to the Canadian Legion, he said that he thought that "Legions" throughout the Commonwealth made a contribution to good citizenship and steadfastness each in its own homeland and all for the Commonwealth. At both dinners an appeal was made for members.

Theft, Pilfering, Robbery, Larceny?

The other day I was standing amongst a number of friends drinking a cocktail. Just as I finished my drink the party moved off into the lunch room. I did not have time to dispose of my glass nor did I know where to put it so I slipped it into my pocket. A journalist standing by commented on this and asked me jokingly if it were a habit of mine. I said that it was and that during my thirty years in Parliament there had been a number of occasions upon which this had occurred and that as a result I had quite a nice collection of crested House of Commons glasses on my mantelpiece at home. I added that this was one of the minor tragedies associated with blindness, another of which was what to do with a spent match. The journalist must have mentioned this recently in some gossip paragraph of a newspaper—though I did not see the cutting—for a few days later I received a letter from a friend which read as follows:

"I have read with much interest that you are making a fight for an increase in the rate of disability pensions and I wish you every success in your endeavours, for there are still many men who were badly wounded in the 1914-1918 war who owing to their disability find it only just possible to rub along.

"However, that is not my reason for writing to you, nor is it the 'glass problem,' not that I should have ever thought that this was a problem to you for I have sat opposite to you at a dinner and never seen you make a false move. No, it is the 'match problem' about which I write, and I think can solve it for you. I never put spent matches back in the box, for as you know, this ruffles the temper, nor do I throw them into the hearth, for this calls forth a rebuke from my wife. I put them into the turn up of my trousers and empty them when I go to bed."

IAN FRASER.

Men's Supplies

Mr. J. E. Cooper, who has been in charge of the Men's Supplies Department at Headquarters, has resigned and Mr. S. Jones—a St. Dunstaner of World War II—has been appointed in his place.

Derby Sweepstake

This month's REVIEW has been held up in order to include an inset giving the draw for the Derby Sweepstake which took place at the London Club on Friday, May 23rd.

London Club Notes

Outdoor Section.

There was sunshine all the way at Wembley on Saturday, April 19th, for the first 15 mile Walk since the War.

The start was from Messrs. Hoovers' Sports Ground, where Mr. Dyson, the General Manager of Hoovers, announced, "Are you ready—GO" at 3 p.m., and St. Dunstaners and their police escorts went immediately into the stride with Gaygan taking the lead, followed by Billy Miller, Archie Brown, C. Stafford, Stan Tutton, and last but by no means least, Tommy Denmead. This order was maintained throughout, and at eight and a half miles Jack Dawkins was waiting with the cold sponge and hot tea which revived the walkers who were going well despite the heat and pace. At this point the field was well spread out with Gaygan, who made a great pace at the start, a very considerable distance in the lead. After some ten miles through Wembley, Harrow and Stanmore, came Woodcock Hill, a great test, and here it was that the fast start found out the stayers. The order was the same, but the distance of the field was reduced and at just over eleven miles, Tommy Gaygan had to retire. So it was that Billy Miller was first home after a walk of two hours twenty-six minutes, followed at intervals by the others until Tommy Denmead arrived after a splendid walk well within three hours. Charles Stafford won the cup for the first T.B. man to finish, and the old warrior, Archie Brown, still showed the way to walk.

A splendid afternoon. All praise to these chaps, and to the escorts, and also to the members of the Metropolitan Police Junior Walkers who made a match of it and walked with great style and experience. Thanks must be recorded to Messrs. Hoovers for the use of their Sports Pavilion, etc., to the ground staff who provided the tea and comforts, to Mr. and Mrs. Shooter who gave the first handicap prize (Mrs. Shooter presented the prizes later), and last but not least to the uniformed police whose help at crossings, etc., made the whole affair such a success.

Forthcoming Walks.

June 17th (Tuesday), Essex Beagles, 5 miles, Regent's Park.

June 28th (Saturday), R.A.F., 5 miles, Regent's Park.

15 Mile Walk

		H'cap	H'cap		
		All.	time	Time	Scr.
A. Brown ...	4th	5.45	2.26.17	2.32.02	3rd
W. Miller ...	2nd	4.30	2.22.17	2.26.47	2nd
T. Denmead ...	5th	17.15	2.39.10	2.56.25	11th
T. Gaygan ...	Retired at 11½ miles.				
C. Stafford ...	1st	23.15	2.20.36	2.43.51	8th
S. V. Tutton ...	3rd	27.15	2.22.40	2.49.55	10th

Met. Police Junior Team

R. John ...	2.39.43	4th
R. Burns ...	2.40.47	6th
H. Webb ...	2.44.44	9th
A. Hawkbridge ...	2.39.48	5th
R. Cross ...	2.55.22	1st
B. Peacock ...	2.42.31	7th

MATCH: Met. Police, 23 points.

St. Dunstan's, 34 points.

Final Placings for Aggregate Points Cup, S.S. and T.B. Sections

C. Stafford ...	...	...	107 points
A. Brown ...	...	...	105 "
S. Tutton ...	...	...	103 "
W. Miller ...	...	...	88 "
C. Williamson ...	...	...	83½ "
T. Gaygan ...	...	...	67 "
T. Denmead ...	...	...	56 "
P. J. Cryan ...	...	...	50 "
A. C. Bradley ...	...	...	45½ "

1st S.S. Section; A. Brown.

2nd T.B. Section; C. Stafford.

Swimming Gala.

This has been fixed for October 4th. Will men in the London area wishing to enter send in their names as soon as possible to Mr. Dawkins.

Bridge

On Saturday, April 26th, we were Miss Hensley's guests at a special Bridge Drive at which we had the pleasure of meeting Miss Pain once again. The M.C. was our old friend, Jack Armstrong. The winners of the prizes—which were presented by Miss Pain in her own quiet and charming way—were (1st) Harry Cook and Miss Scott, (2nd) W. Bishop and Mr. Bevan, (3rd) B. Ingrey and Mr. Phillips, (4th) Paul Nuyens and Mr. Byrne.

And there was a special prize for Drummer.

Indoor Section.

The Sir Arthur Pearson Cup competitions have started and members who have entered should now come along and keep the competition moving. Attendances at the whist drives are very regular, but the domino section could do with better attendances.

We had an enjoyable time with the O.C.C. and A.C. from Norbury. Again our darts team was victorious. This makes four wins off the reel. Very good going.

CHAS. J. WALKER.

The Second College Reunion

Saturday, April 26th, was a red letter day for the men who were residents at the College Annexe from January, 1917, onwards, and for the members of the staff who did so much for us. The Criterion Restaurant was witness to a very enthusiastic gathering on this our second Reunion, an occasion which afforded all those present the opportunity to recapture the spirit which prevailed in those seemingly dim and far-off days. Now I am sure all who enjoyed themselves so enormously would say with one accord that those days no longer seem so dim and distant.

After an excellent lunch, the Toast to the Queen was proposed by our Chairman, W. T. Scott, then toasts to Miss V. Miller, Nurse Lloyd and "Scotty" for their much appreciated organisation of the Reunion. We stood in silence to the memory of two of our comrades—W. Pratt and T. Fisher—who recently passed on.

During the afternoon we were very pleased to receive a visit from Lady Fraser, who apologised for Sir Ian's inability to attend. We appreciated very much Lady Fraser's endearing quality which prompted her to greet each man and his wife individually, remembering and naming each one.

Other old friends who were present were Miss Shand, Sister Bennett (Mrs. Howells), Sister Hill (Hill 60), Miss Kenrick, Miss Startin (Mrs. Ford), Mrs. Stayt ("Toddles" Dyson), Mrs. Giorgi, Miss Oliphant and Mr. Ottaway. We hope the Reunion will be an annual one.

ALFRED W. BUNDY.

Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain, of Reading, and Bennie Hamilton, of Thetford, have also written expressing their great pleasure at the Reunion. Ben writes:

"After partaking of an excellent lunch, several of my old pals and I fell into a huddle and started 'swapping knives.' Somebody said 'Do you remember?' then someone else asked the same question. After a few minutes, backs straightened, the old plastics brightened up, and the years rolled backwards. I was once asked by a visitor what the V.A.D. stood for and I replied, 'Very Adorable Damsel,' and at the Reunion I was still of the opinion that my definition still applied. I never enjoyed myself so much in any one day since I fell into the sea at Brighton."

Talking Book Library

Agreeable April

A pleasant mixture of romance and adventure is contained in the four books completed this month, and there is a Western to add spice to the collection. Here's the trailer:

"Happy Odyssey," by Lt.-Gen. A. Carton de Wiart, reader Norman Shelley, is one of the most vital, joyful autobiographies I have ever read. The General is a born soldier with a flair for living life to the full. He has interesting adventures and there is no dearth of captivating anecdote. The pure verve and gusto rivet the attention.

"He Threw a Long Shadow," by W. McRaine, reader Lionel Marson, is a tale of the Wild West before law and order was properly established there. It concerns a land feud, one side trying to grab and the other trying grimly to hang on, despite the professional gunmen used against them. Two lovely girls make a human interest and odd outlaws give the story a desperate character. Of course, the hero is a tenderfoot!

"Sir John Constantine," by A. Quiller-Couch, reader Alvar Lidell, is a humorous fantasy of 17th century romance and adventure. A Cornish squire acquires for his son the succession to the crown of Corsica and proceeds to invade Corsica with an army of six. Much danger and more amusement fill the pages, but the would-be king has no satisfaction from the endeavour. Most enjoyable indeed.

"The Immortal Lovers," by Frances Winwar, reader Franklin Engelmann, traces the lives of Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning. There is a deal of detail about the two poets and it cannot fail to be enjoyed by those interested in poets.

My choice is a dead-heat, "Happy Odyssey" and "Sir John Constantine."

NELSON.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. Cox, of Coventry, writes: "I would like to thank one and all at St. Dunstan's for the kindness and help they have given my late husband during the short time he was under their care. They gave us 3½ years of wonderful happiness and although we were unable to get among you owing to his health, we were most interested in everything going on with the boys, and were with them in mind. Goodbye and God bless one and all."

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I read with interest the letter in the April issue of the REVIEW from John Mudge. How fortunate the men in the London area are, having such a fine club and so many functions to attend, but I wouldn't change with any of them as the air on the South Coast is worth a guinea a sniff. I seem to remember John telling the world through the medium of the B.B.C. how much he admired a certain gentleman because he was such an individualist. May the younger men beg to differ or must they do as John bids them? Surely he can't have it both ways. I am sure the "boys" are enjoying themselves while they can, and when they get older they will certainly attend the more serious functions. I wonder if perhaps Honest John is suffering from tummy-ache; if so, he knows the qualities of the ten minus one.

Yours very sincerely,

JOCK REAGAN.

Hastings.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was very interested in the letter by my friend, John Mudge. Like John, I have been to many functions since I came to St. Dunstan's, and also large and small debates.

The fact that at all these socials and other meetings only a small number of 39-45 men turn up, compared with 14-18 men, may be due to the fact that there are more 14-18 men than the 39-45.

My friend John lives in the largest city in the world, and in and around there must be considerably more first war men than second war.

John can only attend at one place so he does not know who attends another, unless he is told by someone, but even then, his escort does not know all St. Dunstaners, and not all St. Dunstaners wear dark glasses, or their badge in a place where it can be seen.

What are these "free do's" that John says the last war men attend? I have been to a few in Brighton and I have been never more surprised, as John, but to every one last war man there has been at least five more first war men.

These so called "free do's" are given by well meaning people who wish to give pleasure to the disabled. At nearly all of these there is a dance, and it is only natural that the younger men prefer bright enter-

tainment perhaps after a hard day at work.

One's escort has also to be taken into consideration in these matters.

Whatever kind of entertainment, it is to one's own choice, and I am quite sure that the men and women of the 1939-45 war are doing their best, in all walks of life, so whatever war you belong to—Zulu, Boer, World War I or II—not forgetting Korea—I say "Good luck, health and happiness to you all."

Yours sincerely,

Brighton.

BILL EDWARDS (The Copper)

DEAR EDITOR,

I endorse Bill Edwards' statement that Post-War Credits ought to be repaid, but I am afraid that the economic situation is such that it is not practicable at the present moment. However, I would like to see the Government repay to certain persons the credit due to them, these same persons being those who have had to give up work since the end of the last war, before reaching the retiring age of 65 (men) or 60 (women). Most of these people are ex-servicemen and owing to wounds, or illness contracted during service, are no longer able to earn money but must rely on pensions, grants, etc., and these have not kept pace with the steep rise in prices which has occurred recently. Increases are on the way, it is true, but to bridge the gap between now and when they are paid, I suggest that the Post-War Credits due to these people should be re-paid immediately.

Yours faithfully,

Luton.

P. APPLEBY.

DEAR EDITOR,

Anthony Law has no need to envy me my faith, for anybody who is sufficiently interested in the Divine Will has not lost faith. He is merely confused in the direction of his thoughts, as we are all liable to be when circumstances turn our minds in a new direction. His query, "What of the others?" is very simply answered, for predestination has its emphatic place in the Bible. "That which was is, and that which is, is that which shall be again." There is a purpose and a meaning to everything. The founding of St. Dunstan's was a Christian act that attempted to make compensation to those who in former wars had remained for ever in the darkness of despair.

Yours sincerely,

Castle Cary.

A. J. RADFORD.

DEAR EDITOR,

The only Saint I have known the St. Dunstan's men to be interested in is the St. Leger. All this talk about a guy called Dunstan who happened to be a Saint gets me down. After all, the house might have been called "St. Fanny's," and then what? If they want a name to worship, what about Pearson—Sir Arthur Pearson—the man who created the only heaven on earth that we will ever know.

I would like to suggest that the address of Ovingdean should be St. Dunstan's, Pearson House, Ovingdean, Brighton.

I don't agree with Bill Edwards when he says that those Post War Credits are only a small debt, as I believe it runs into thousands of millions, and if the Government paid it all out at once it would cause inflation, as there would be too much money chasing too little goods: the price of goods would go up, and the value of your money would go down; but they could reduce the paying-out age to, say 55 instead of 65.

I would like to know who appointed John Mudge as spokesman for Headquarters as I have always found Headquarters quite capable of speaking for themselves. He seems to be a very lucky man to hear of all these imaginary functions, as we don't seem to hear of them. I am sure the tone of his letter would not encourage young men to come up to Headquarters but keep them away. After all, they did lose their sight for freedom and surely they should be allowed to please themselves.

Yours sincerely,

Ilford.

JOCK MACFARLANE.

Reunions

The men of Essex had their reunion at Colchester on April 29th, and although Sir Ian was unable to be present as he had hoped, Lady Fraser was there to bring his apologies, and to meet the guests. Everybody was delighted to meet Miss Pain and those good friends on the staff, now also retired, Messrs. Ottaway, White, Panton and Lale.

At Norwich, on May 1st, and at Doncaster, two days later, Mr. D. G. Hopewell, a member of our Council, was our special guest. Mr. Edwards, late of Country Life Department, was another welcome visitor at Norwich. Miss Pain was there, too, and also went on to the Doncaster meeting.

Manchester Club Notes

On March 29th the Manchester Club entertained twenty-eight members of the Liverpool Club at "The Swan with Two Necks" Hotel, Manchester. After a chicken and ham tea, ice cream, etc., we had a spot of dancing with prizes for the lucky people who were "on the spot" when the music stopped. Mrs. Jackson and her party provided the music and singing. Ladies present were Mrs. Irvine, Miss Doel, Mrs. Dunphy, Mrs. Lang, and our dear friend, Matron Davies, otherwise known by the boys as "Nellie Dean."

It was a very enjoyable evening and we are hoping that we can repeat the invitation on March 29th, 1953.

We heartily invite all young and old St. Dunstaners—with their wives—to come along and join in our efforts. We meet once a fortnight—the second and fourth Friday evenings, at the Red Cross, Milton Place, near Frederick Road, Pendleton.

W. MCCARTHY,

Chairman, Manchester Club.

Liverpool Club Notes

On Saturday, 19th April, we of the Liverpool Club assembled for our Annual General Meeting and there was a deep mutual feeling that the past year had been a highly successful one as far as the Club was concerned. We cannot boast of an exceptionally high number of members, but if success is to be measured by enthusiasm and a general atmosphere of good humour and friendliness, we can certainly make claims to being successful. This feeling was prevalent on the 19th and after an encouraging statement from the retiring chairman and then the treasurer, we got down to the business of electing our committee. The result was as follows: *President*: Capt. E. Halloway; *Chairman*: J. C. Owen; *Vice-Chairman*: A. Lincoln; *Treasurer*: A. Wright; *Secretary*: T. Milner. *Other members*: E. Cooper, W. Moorcroft, L. Jackson, C. Ellis (*Assistant Secretary*).

Following the formation of the Committee, the new Vice-Chairman echoed the sentiments of the whole Club by proposing a vote of thanks to the Ladies for their ungrudging and magnificent help throughout the year.

FRISBY.

An Adventure at Sea

Previous to the First World War I was a fisherman, one of the crew of the sailing drifter, "*Our Boys*," of Great Yarmouth. On 26th October, 1909, we left Yarmouth for the herring fishing grounds about 27 miles away. We shot our nets and, after drifting until 12 o'clock midnight, we started to haul. We had a good catch of herrings and finished hauling about nine the following morning.

The wind had risen during the night and by then it was blowing a full gale. After reefing the sails, we got under way for Yarmouth, having the wind on our port quarter. Some of the crew went down to breakfast while the rest of us coiled up the halyards, and the skipper was at the tiller. Suddenly he shouted, "Look out, water," and we shipped a heavy sea. Another man and myself were washed overboard but, although I was a good swimmer, I was handicapped by oilskins and thirty-six inch leather boots. I struck out for the surface and on reaching it saw the stern of "*Our Boys*" going away from me. Then I saw the other man who was washed overboard with me put up his hands and sink—I never saw him again. I determined not to give up as I thought that the boat might come about and try to rescue me. I could see it aluff about two miles away and I began to wonder if they could see me as it did not seem that they were making any attempt to come after me.

By now I was beginning to feel tired, so I floated to reserve my strength. But, as soon as I turned on to my back my heavy boots pulled me under, so I turned over, struggled, and managed to get to the top of a wave. I could still see "*Our Boys*" with her sails still aluff, but now I began to give up hope. I tried to get my knife to cut my oilskins and tried to kick my boots off, but as soon as I put my hands down to get at my jack knife in my pocket, my boots pulled me under again. I was by now very tired and had almost given up hope, but as I struggled to the top of a sea, I saw our little boat with the skipper and third hand rowing towards me. This put new life into me and the thought struck me that I must not try and get hold of the boat or it might capsize. That was what my rescuers were afraid of. They came alongside of me; the

third hand grabbed me by the collar of my oilskin, worked me round to the stern and pulled me into the boat. They now had a couple of miles to row to the drifter and, after a long pull, came alongside. I was able to scramble aboard myself. They pulled the little boat aboard, and after having another look around to see if there was any sign of the other man, we made our way to port. I was, through being a good swimmer and through the bravery of the skipper and third hand, alive.

At the Board of Trade inquiry my rescuers were commended by the Registrar, and they both received the Edward Medal. The skipper was also presented with a gold watch by the Carnegie Hero Fund and the third hand was presented with a cheque for twenty guineas.

I had a good many other narrow squeaks, but I think that was the closest.

TED OXBOROUGH.

Pensions Increase

The Ministry of Pensions have already started on their task of increasing their Disability Pensions and hope to be finished by early August at the latest. In general they do not propose to withdraw Pension Order Books which have more than three months to run in order to effect the change in the rate of pension. Instead, the pensioners concerned will receive an advance payment covering the difference between the old and the new rates for the period up to the end of their current Pension Order Book or to February or March 1953.

If there is any St. Dunstaner who has not received his increase and arrears by the end of August he should write to Mr. Banks at Ovingdean, or Mr. Rice at 1 South Audley Street.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Normanby

From the "Times," May 13th:

Birth

NORMANBY.—On May 12th, 1952, at King's College Hospital, to The Marquis and Marchioness of Normanby—a daughter (Lepel Sophia.)

Marriage

COOKSON—GAFNEY.—On March 31st, Ernie Cookson, of Barnsbury, to Miss Violet Gafney.

Canadian Letter

In a letter to Sir Ian Fraser, Harris Turner writes from British Columbia:

"Colonel Baker and Mr. Weir came to Victoria last week on the occasion of the opening of a new building, a service centre for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

"On Friday there was a luncheon to which the blinded soldiers of these parts were invited. Those present were Eddie Baker, Robbie Robinson, Charlie Hornsby, Old Hogan, Ted Turner, Horace Woodfield, Charlie Smail, Jakes and myself. Dr. Mayell put in an appearance before lunch.

"Mayell, Robbie, Eddie, Hornsby and the two Turners are all old St. Dunstaners. Smail, the only blinded soldier living in Victoria who lost his sight in the recent war, took his training at Baker Hall. Jakes lost his sight too late to undergo the rigours of training. Also present was Percy Ogilvie, who lost his sight about twenty years after the first war but whose disability was traceable to bad treatment he had received in a German prison. He now works for Capt. Robinson as a placement officer in Vancouver.

"It was a pleasant gathering and it was good to meet together, but some of the youthful buoyancy of earlier years seems to have departed. Most of the men mentioned lead quiet, retired, contented lives. If the orderly sergeant had broken in on our gathering, called the meeting to attention and shouted 'Any complaints,' the ensuing silence would have been deafening."

National Laying Test

Report for the seventh period of four weeks, March 24th to April 20th, 1952.

Pos'n	Name	Score value to date
1	Jackson, G. C. ...	718
2	Taylor, Tom ...	652
3	Jarvis, Albert ...	619
4	Webb, W. ...	617
5	Gregory, T. D. ...	595
6	Holmes, Percy ...	524
7	Bagwell, Philip ...	521
8	Clarke, T. ...	281

Average per bird to date, 109.56

Raised to the Peerage

My mind goes back to the years immediately following the first world war, when I was one of the disabled soldiers in hospital.

We had a grievance. We hated the puddings served daily at dinner, always either rice, sago or tapioca, ever sloppy.

One day in December the Sister said to me:

"We're having a grand concert in the ward on Christmas evening. The Mayor and Mayoress and other important people are coming. Can you help?"

"Yes," I replied, the grievance rushing in to my mind, "I'll recite."

"What title?" she asked.

"Oh, put down 'Selected'."

The evening arrived and I found myself on the platform, the rows of chairs before me filled, students and nurses all round the ward, everyone expectant.

After bowing, I recited as follows:

The Rice Song

It's nice to live on what's nice

And rice is very nice just once or twice,
But to have it every day

Is enough to make one say
It's only fit for Chinamen and mice.

It's nicely soft for those whose teeth are bad
And good for filling cracks 'mongst what
you've had,

But to be like a balloon

Every blessed afternoon
Is bound to make you feel both sore and sad.

In flavour it's lamentably lacking,

Though its good points I'm not attacking;
And Oh! good Lord! arrange

To let us have a change
From this everlasting, sloppy Chinese
packing.

The faces of the front row showed surprise and disgust, while my comrades shouted with laughter and I felt a certain gratification.

Next morning the Superintendent was angry, but my comrades congratulated me, and to the joy of us all our next dinner included plum duff. In their glee the fellows christened me "Lord Duff." But I am still waiting for a coronet.

J. G. HEALY.

Blackpool.

Birmingham Club Notes

There were very good attendances at our last four monthly meetings. We have some very good young St. Dunstaners coming along to take part in the serious training arrangements that have been provided by Mr. Dick Cooling, our very great friend (and very reliable one). Mr. Cooling and Miss Fairhead, our hostess and hon. secretary, have gone to a great deal of trouble to make these arrangements and nothing pleases them better than to see St. Dunstaners taking advantage of them. In the near future we should be able to put some good teams in all kinds of sporting events. There is still room for more young St. Dunstaners to enter the fray for all sports, and I appeal to them all to come along. They will be made very welcome indeed. Although most of us older St. Dunstaners are now well past our best, we are very eager to encourage others who will "have a go."

Our thanks to all sisters, V.A.D.s and cadets for the help they have given us through the year in providing and serving our tea—and what a smashing cup of tea it is.

Our annual summer outing is to Trent-ham Gardens on Sunday, June 15th. Two coaches have kindly been offered to us and we are hoping to meet a number of our St. Dunstan's comrades from the Potteries area at the same time. Thank you, Mr. Cooling and Miss Fairhead, and our thanks to Mr. J. H. Thomas, of the Alexandra Musical Society, who is providing our charas., and to Birmingham Red Cross for all their help.

J. H. New.

Golden Wedding

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Driscoll, of Cork, who on April 30th celebrated their golden wedding.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Agate, Croydon, May 14th. Congratulations.

Elected

Congratulations to Bob Black, of Sea-houses, Co. Durham, who has been elected to the Parish Council and to the Rural District Council of Belford at the recent elections, and also to L. Leeman, of Louth, who has been re-elected Councillor.

The Rest of the News

L. Jackson, of Heswall, has had a write-up in the local paper for growing white daffodils (he says he does not know how!) which are apparently extremely rare.

★ ★ ★

R. Paterson, of Thirsk, has received a badge for giving eleven pints of his blood for the Blood Transfusion Service. His dog is of no use as a guide when he visits the Clinic for he will not allow his master to be touched!

★ ★ ★

G. T. Shaw, of Palfrey, Walsall, wonders if any St. Dunstaner has a mother living as old as his mother—she is 97.

★ ★ ★

H. McCrae, of Belfast, one of our telephone operators, recently had a visit from the census people of the telephone exchange. At the time he was putting through calls at the rate of over five per minute. They told him his was probably the busiest board in town. They suggested another board and operator, but Hugh wanted extra lines—which he is to have. In their words—if he went any faster than he was going now, he would be jet-propelled.

★ ★ ★

The ceremony of opening the new Memorial Hall, Bolton Road Methodist Church, Bury, was carried out by Tom Taylor, of Farrington, who is a former scholar of the Church and a member.

★ ★ ★

Maureen Lees had another mention after the wireless news, this time concerning her exhibit at Chester. Incidentally Maureen sends regards and greetings to all St. Dunstaner friends of Church Stretton days from Mary Scorsh, the Canadian St. John Ambulance driver who was at Stretton.

Grandfathers

R. Wylie, of Bromley; C. W. Matthews, of Maidenhead; A. Porter, of Seven Kings (the second grandchild but first grandson); A. E. Strand, of Ringwood; J. Printie, of Edinburgh.

R.A.O.B.

An R.O.H. Assembly has been formed in the Brighton and District Province, and Bro. J. Jackson, R.O.H., has been elected as President. Congratulations, Bro. Jack.

Brighton Notes

Ovingdean

On May 12th we had the pleasure of a visit from Sir Ian Fraser, accompanied by Lady Fraser, to inspect the work and to meet the men in training and those on holiday or convalescence.

It does not seem too early to remind all readers of the REVIEW that Sports Day will be held at Ovingdean on Saturday, 19th July, commencing at 2.30 p.m. and once again this year we are looking forward to a large number of entries both from individual St. Dunstaners as well as the London and other Clubs. The main items on the programme will be:—

Throwing the Cricket Ball.
70 yards for the Totally Blind.
70 yards for Semi-Sighted.
Standing Long Jump.
Throwing the Discus.
Putting the Weight.
Throwing the Medicine Ball.
Tug-o-War.
Team Relay.

In addition there will, of course, be other items and if you would like to have a full list together with information about tea, etc., you should get in touch with Miss Guilbert at Ovingdean. The next step is to decide upon the races you will enter and have your name sent to Mr. Jarrold not later than **30th June**. This may sound early, but it does help us with the final arrangements here at Ovingdean.

As previously we shall send invitations to Sussex St. Dunstaners, but we do hope that any St. Dunstaner who knows that he will be in the district at that time, will apply to us for a Tea Ticket and come along on Sports Day. In the past year or so the day has become an "unofficial" Reunion and we hope this will again be the case this year.

Summer term is now well under way and amongst our visitors to the Training Sections this month have been a group of doctors from Paddington Hospital, Mr. George Yu-Chieh Tsou who is the Director of the Rehabilitation Centre, Formosa, and who came to us by arrangement with the British Council, and a young actor, Mr. Neil Landor, who was shortly to play the part of a blind man in a play to be produced in Ireland.

Towards the end of the month we

welcomed the Reverend W. Huang, a Chinese Malayan who is shortly to take up a post of principal of a school for blind children in Malaya. He takes our good wishes to Major Bridges, also working in Malaya. A flying visit from Group Captain D. S. G. Honor (United Kingdom and Commonwealth Representative of the World Veterans' Federation) and Mr. Henry Urrows (United States World Veterans' Fund) completed a busy month.

Entertainments for both trainees and St. Dunstaners on holiday have not been lacking and the Home has been well populated in spite of the difficulties encountered because of alterations of several dormitories into smaller rooms. The weekly drives have proved very popular and there have been several Race Meetings to attend. The entertainments arranged for Sunday evenings have continued with Concerts, play-readings by the Staff, and, on 27th April, a visit from the "St. Wilfrid's Players" who presented "With Vacant Possession." Any local St. Dunstaner who would like to come along on a Sunday evening will find something in the way of entertainment. Future programmes will be listed in these columns from time to time.

Young St. Dunstaners

The eldest son of S. Loram, of Brixham, is now a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy.

Olive Coates, Preston, now serving with the W.R.N.S., has won her General Education Certificate (Matriculation).

Barbara Sayers, Northampton, has won the County Championship Cup for Gymnastics.

Marriages

Edward Maskell, Hunmanby, on March 29th, to Dorothy May Wheeldon.

Leslie Dembensi, on April 4th, to Joan Gladys Bowen.

George Kennedy, Barnhill, by Dundee, on January 25th, to Ina Galbraith.

Delcie Muir (Whitley Bay), to Frederick D. Steele, of East Boldon.

For Sale

SILVER CROSS GREY COUPE PRAM for sale in good condition. Drop handle and adjustable seat for sitting child. Price, carriage paid, 11 guineas. Sun canopy to match.—R. Bridger, 124 Manor Rd., Stoke Newington, N.16. (Tel. Stamford Hill 9079).

STOP PRESS

DERBY SWEEPSTAKE

The draw for the Derby Sweepstake took place at the London Club, 191 Marylebone Road, on Friday evening, May 23rd.

The result of the draw was as follows :—

		<i>Ticket No.</i>		<i>Ticket No.</i>
Ararat II...	A. BENNING, Tiptree	1078	Merry Minstrel...	J. H. BURT, Southampton... 1676
Argur ...	E. SWAYNE, London, S.E.25	1961	Monarch More...	H. G. GRANSBY, Perivale ... 2219
Blue Chariot ...	E. BRADFORD, Sheffield	1460	Neath ...	W. J. WOODCOCK, Saffron Walden 132
Bob Major ...	W. G. MORRIS, Southbourne	44	Nick La Rocca...	G. A. (" Archie ") BROWN, London, N.W.2 ... 152
Bold Buccaneer	E. W. READ, Portchester	608	Otari ...	H. F. GOODLEY, Diss ... 1733
Castleton ...	D. TICKNER, Whyteleafe	2339	Postman's Path	W. HARDING, London, N.4 487
Caerlaverock ...	C. A. LUKER, London, S.W.18	836	Rego ...	J. CLYDE, London, N.W.10 458
Chavey Down ...	R. CHANDLER, Richmond, Yorks	1549	Serpenyoe ...	Capt. W. APPLEBY, Reigate 203
Faubourg II ...	W. B. MOON, Bilton, Harro- gate	1607	Shahcrenda ...	A. J. RADFORD, Castle Cary 302
Fiery Torch ...	E. L. WOODS, Malmesbury	2369	Silnet ...	J. LYNCH, Hornchurch ... 224
Gay Time ...	F. STEW, at Blackpool	1491	Silver Wraith ...	W. SHAYLER, Liverpool ... 2488
Green Signal ...	W. ROBINSON, London, N.4	2580	Speechmaker ...	P. ASHTON, Perivale ... 2398
Hasty Prince ...	W. H. HILL, Blackpool	1918	Summer Rain ...	E. BREWER, West House ... 506
H.V.C. ...	S. BULL, Hemel Hempstead	1825	Thunderhead II	J. DELANEY, Taunton ... 2608
Indian Hemp ...	PADDY COOKE, Kingston	1366	Trim Curry ...	W. HEUSHAW, Potters Bar 1871
Kara Tepe ...	W. TROTT, Birmingham	1989	Tulyar ...	R. V. HAM, Glamorgan ... 2087
Khor-Mousa ...	E. BOWCOTT, Mitcham	994	Torcross ...	W. FLOWERS, Birmingham 2598
La Varende ...	H. DAY, Brighton	1045	Worden II ...	A. PAULSON, Brighton ... 1668
Marsyad...	F. L. HUNT, London, N.W.3	896	The Field ...	E. CARPENTER, King's Langley 137

STOP PRESS

READY & WAITING

The Disabled Man in Industry

Speaking in a midnight adjournment debate in the House of Commons on May 6th, on conditions in a Remploi factory, Sir Ian Fraser said:

"All of will wish that every means should be used to find work for disabled men and women. Happiness does not come along from pensions or money, but only from work, though the work must as far as possible, be useful and fruitful, and as nearly as possible competitive commercial work.

"It is not true that disabled men must do only simple hand work. They are very skilled at machine minding. Men disabled in the highest degree—blind and limbless, without hands or eyes—can do machine work. If they do machine work then the capital employed in the machines makes them feel much more worth while. Further, whilst there is a place for sheltered factories for some who are most disabled, it is my experience that where a man can go to work in an open competitive factory alongside normal workmen he is happiest."

Under the present system every substantial employer was compelled to employ 3 per cent. of disabled persons, varying from the most severe to the lightest cases.

Sir Ian suggested that that percentage should be altered so that where an employer took in men disabled in the most severe degree, that man should be allowed to count as two in the percentage.

Sir Ian said he was not opposed to the sheltered factory. There was a place for it, but he thought its importance had been exaggerated. Men were happier when they felt that they were normally employed in normal industry.

Placements

E. J. Paris, of Leyton, as a tobacconist and confectioner; A. E. Ryan (Australian) on inspection work with Messrs. Thornycroft & Co., Ltd., Basingstoke.

R. Towner, as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. Tilling Stevens, Ltd., Maidstone; C. A. Radford, as a capstan operator with Messrs. A.B.C. Motors, Walton-on-Thames; F. Lipscombe, as a telephonist with the Agricultural Executive Committee, Exeter; J. L. E. Price, Manor Park, as a capstan lathe operator with Castle Products, Ltd., Leyton.

Births

BEDFORD.—On May 11th, to the wife of E. Bedford, of Market Drayton, a son.

HAWES.—On April 26th, to the wife of F. A. E. Hawes, a daughter—Bryony Iona.

WHYTE.—On March 20th, to the wife of F. Whyte, of Motherwell, a son—Francis.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

BROWN.—To F. J. Brown, of Birmingham, in the recent loss of his brother.

CALVERT.—To Mr. and Mrs. L. Calvert, of Ormskirk, whose little grandson has died suddenly.

KAY.—T. A. H. Kay, of Letchworth, whose only sister has died in Canada.

KEEGAN.—To A. Keegan, of Cork, in the loss of his only brother who died on April 7th.

ROBINSON.—To B. Robinson, of Scarborough, who has suffered further bereavement by the death of his father. He recently lost his mother.

WILLIAMS.—To A. Williams, of Newport, Mon., whose wife died on April 20th after a short illness.

MITCHELL.—To A. C. Mitchell, of Guildford, whose father died on April 23rd.

GREEN.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Green, of Middlesbrough, whose married daughter has recently died of pneumonia.

Thirty Years Ago

From the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, May, 1922:

"The fitting out of a special expedition to secure, dead or alive, that wonderful monster, the plesiosaurus, has reminded writers in one or two of the leading papers of a somewhat similar expedition which was financed by Sir Arthur Pearson. Sir Arthur's quest, however, was for another supposedly extinct mammoth, a mylodon, which was reported to have been seen in the same lake region of Patagonia. The search, which extended over a year and which was headed by Mr. Hesketh Pritchard, was not successful in its main object, but a great deal of valuable information as to the flora and fauna of these little-known wilds, and much of great interest to scientists and geologists, was added to the world's knowledge."

“In Memory”

Rifleman James McFarlane, 8th London Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of James McFarlane, of Barnhill, by Dundee. After losing his sight in France in April, 1918, he came to us the following year and trained in boot-repairing. He was not able to carry on with this trade a great deal and of late years he had done only very light work. He died at his home on April 17th.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers at the funeral. Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. McFarlane and her children, and to Colin, who had lived with his grandparents for many years.

Private George Henry Orrow, 1st Herts. Regiment

With deep regret we record the death at Ovingdean of G. H. Orrow, of Chingford. Although he had been in poor health for some time his death was unexpected. He had, sadly enough, just arrived at Ovingdean for a convalescent holiday. He was 64.

He was badly wounded at Hill 60 and in addition to his loss of sight, he lost also a leg. When he came to us he trained as a shopkeeper but later took up netting and he was working at this up to the time of his death. In spite of his double handicap he was always most cheerful.

The funeral took place at Chingford and Sir Ian's wreath of poppies was among the masses of flowers.

He leaves a widow and three sons to whom our sincere sympathy is extended.

Gunner Harry Blakeley, Royal Field Artillery

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Harry Blakeley, of Exmouth. He was fifty-eight. He came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1917, and trained in mats and boot-repairing and these crafts he worked at until 1942 when he changed to netting. He had been in failing health for some time.

A poppy wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral at Bride-stowe Church, near Okehampton, where he had lived for 17 years. There was a wreath from the British Legion, and four Legion members—all old friends of Harry's—carried him to his last resting place.

He leaves a widow and grown-up daughter to whom our deep sympathy goes.

Corporal Walter Stedman, Royal Air Force

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Walter Stedman, of Hayes, at the age of fifty-eight.

After his discharge from the R.A.F. in 1925, he came to St. Dunstan's three years later. He was a mat maker and netter and carried on these occupations until 1949. He had been in failing health, however, for some time and his condition had worsened over the past few months, but he bore his long illness with great bravery.

Sir Ian's wreath of poppies from his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers at the funeral. Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Stedman and her four daughters.

Lance Corporal William John Hopper, 1st East Yorkshire Regiment

With deep regret we have to announce the death of W. H. (Jack) Hopper, of Bridlington, whose death occurred very suddenly at his home on Easter Monday.

When war broke out in August, 1914, he was called up immediately. Two years later he was wounded at Armequin, losing his sight and right hand. He came to us in June, 1917 and although he trained as a poultry farmer, his heart was always in engineering—he had been a marine engineer before the war. Several years ago he joined a company which ran a pleasure steamer, “Boys' Own,” from Bridlington to Flamborough Head. He was secretary and director, and a well-known figure at the harbour. He was a former member of Bridlington Town Council and a member of the Committee of Bridlington branch of the British Legion.

Among the many wreaths at the funeral was one of poppies from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends. His ashes will be scattered on the sea from the “Boys' Own.”

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Hopper.

Private James Wallace McConnell, Army Catering Corps

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death at Ovingdean of J. W. McConnell, of Brighton. He was 37.

He came to us in November, 1943, and trained as a shop-keeper, but he gave this up six years later.

The funeral took place at the Borough Crematorium on April 17th, and there were many flowers, including our wreath of poppies.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to his relatives.

Mrs. Barbara Turner

We have heard with deep regret of the sudden death at Brighton of Mrs. Barbara Turner. Mrs. Turner was always extremely willing to offer her help to St. Dunstan's men, and to our deaf comrades in particular she was most kind and helpful. She will be greatly missed by them.

Personal

Mrs. Orrow expresses her deep appreciation of the kindness shown to her by the Matron and staff of Ovingdean and West House and for the many letters received.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. Stedman sends her very sincere thanks to St. Dunstan's staff for their great help during her husband's last long illness.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 395—VOLUME XXXV

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Patron—Her Majesty the Queen

HER Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to grant her Patronage to St. Dunstan's."

Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., our President, replying to the letter which conveyed this news, expressed the deep appreciation of the Council and all the war-blinded, and said: "Ever since its foundation, all members of Your Majesty's family have from time to time shown their deep interest in St. Dunstan's. We are therefore all the more grateful for this signal mark of your continued interest in those who, each in his own fashion, has had to rebuild a broken life."

The letter, which is similar to that received by the British Legion, of which Her Majesty has also become Patron, says: "It will be in order for the words 'Patron—Her Majesty the Queen' to appear in future under the name of your Institution on all correspondence."

Some who have written to me or mentioned the matter to me, asked if Her Majesty would become Patroness of St. Dunstan's, and accordingly the instruction from Buckingham Palace that the style "Patron" is to be used is interesting and clears up any doubt there might have been on the matter. There are other examples in our public affairs where the use of the male noun is appropriate for a lady, as for instance in the case indicated by Lord Derby, the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire, who shortly after the accession of Queen Elizabeth II, informed Lancastrians that when the Royal Toast is given at a dinner, the proper formula is "Ladies and Gentlemen, the Queen, the Duke of Lancaster."

Yet another example is that, when the head of a Department of State is a lady, she is still called "Minister," as in the case of Miss Horsbrugh, the Minister of Education.

George Bernard Shaw, the playwright, foreshadowed that women would one day hold high office, and long ago described one of his characters as the Ministrix of Power, but this word has never in fact been used.

Our Own Braille Contractions

I note that, for the National News Letter, which is published in Braille, they print a series of initials representing well-known names with the Braille characters next to each other, without a capital sign and without full stops. For example, usa for United States of America, uk for United Kingdom, pmg for Postmaster General. I suggest to the Editor

of the REVIEW that it would be a good thing to consider adopting this practice in our Braille edition, as it saves a little space, but, more important, is much easier to read.

We might also develop further our own system of shorthand. We already have a contraction for St. Dunstan's. Why not let us have a contraction for Brighton—say, BN; Blackpool—BP, etc. Perhaps a study should be made of the REVIEW to see what words there are which are repeated so often as to be worth while contracting. What do our Braille readers think?

Visitors to Britain

I welcome to Britain two St. Dunstaners and their wives, namely, Donald McPhee, O.B.E., physiotherapist and St. Dunstan's representative in New Zealand; and W. H. Foster, of Vancouver, Canada.

IAN FRASER.

Braille Centenary Celebrations

A programme of events has been planned to celebrate the Louis Braille Centenary in France, culminating with a Ceremony on Sunday, June 22nd, at which the Ashes of Louis Braille will be transferred to the Pantheon in Paris. Mr. Askew is going to France to represent St. Dunstan's.

The National Institute for the Blind is holding a Braille Centenary Exhibition, which was opened on June 11th by His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Lady Fraser represented St. Dunstan's at the dinner to inaugurate the Celebrations.

Captain Alan Milne, Ph.D., B.Sc. (Econ.)

Many congratulations to Alan Milne, late of the Commandos, who has obtained his Ph.D.

In 1949 he obtained a First in the B.Sc. (Econ.) examination of London University, and has since been at the London School of Economics as a Research Student. He has already been awarded a Commonwealth Fund Scholarship for a year to an American University, and takes up this Scholarship early in the autumn.

No Reply?

The Editor received an envelope on May 10th with the Brighton and Hove postmark; it had only a blank sheet of paper inside. The only clue was the watermark on the paper, which is Abermill Bond.

Grandfathers

F. Bush, Elland; W. H. Rutland, Princes Risborough (seventh grand-daughter); J. Butler, Waterford; F. Matthewman, Northampton.

Reunions

More than sixty St. Dunstaners were present, with their escorts, at the Oxford Halls, Reading, on May 14th, when Mr. J. E. Woodward, Chairman of Berkshire County British Legion, was the guest of honour. Miss Pain and Mr. Lale, Mr. Ottaway and Mr. George White—all now retired members of the staff—were greeted with immense pleasure.

Miss Pain was present also at Plymouth and Bristol—on May 22nd and 24th respectively. At Plymouth, the Rev. F. Darrell Bunt, O.B.E., R.N., a member of St. Dunstan's Executive Council, was the special guest. At Bristol, Mr. D. G. Hopewell, another member of St. Dunstan's Council, welcomed the visitors. (Miss Lloyd and Mr. Ottaway were among them.) At Salisbury, the special guest was again Mr. Hopewell, and here Miss Pain was present, with Mr. Lale, Mr. Ottaway and Mr. White.

Festival Gardens, Battersea Park

The Directors of the Festival Pleasure Gardens at Battersea Park are inviting any St. Dunstaners who care to come to visit the Pleasure Gardens free of charge during the period, Monday, July 28th, to Saturday, August 2nd, inclusive; members of the British Legion and the Women's Section are also invited. Admission is from 11.30 a.m. to 11.30 p.m. Each St. Dunstaner may bring his wife or one escort free, but additional friends or members of the family would have to pay the ordinary entrance fee. No tickets are required, but St. Dunstaners must wear their badges.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser will attend a ceremony to inaugurate this Ex-Service-men's Week, at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, July 28th.

London Club Notes

The London Club were privileged to take part in a most enjoyable trip up the river on Sunday, May 18th, when three coaches left the club and proceeded to Windsor, and thence by steamer to Marlow, cruising along what is perhaps the most beautiful part of the Thames. At Marlow we had refreshments, and returned by the same route. We all had a wonderful time, with a full dance band in the bow, and an accordionist in the stern, with liberal refreshments constantly passing round. It was a day we shall long remember, and for all this we were indebted to our very good friend, Mr. G. D. Cheeseman, who never forgets us when organising his annual outings.

Bridge

On May 24th we had a match against Mr. Alf. Field's team—twelve-a-side—which we lost, but we won our match against Sperry's, on June 7th.

Harrogate is now fixed for seven days, commencing Saturday, September 6th, and we are staying at the Dirlton Hotel, Ripon Road. (Seven guineas each).

The St. Dunstan's Bridge Congress will be held at Brighton again, and the date has been fixed for the week-end of November 15th. Mr. A. E. Field will again be our Tournament Director. Please send in your name in good time if you are interested.

The Bridge Club has again been invited to the headquarters of the London County Contract Bridge Association. The date is Saturday, June 21st, and we are sending five teams of four. We shall have the pleasure of playing against some of the best players in England. H. GOVER.

Indoor Section

On May 5th we paid a visit to the Tottenham Constitutional Club; this was a grand evening's entertainment, during which we played against them at darts, dominoes, cribbage, bridge, and a four at solo whist was arranged.

We again won at darts, we also won at dominoes and cribbage, but were unlucky at bridge, as our men met a very hot pair.

This was a very successful evening in every way. It was the strongest turn-out in numbers yet.

On May 12th we paid a return visit to the O.C.C. & A.C., at Gipsy Hill, and amid good fellowship our Darts Team retaliated by beating them 2—1, after a stiff battle.

On Derby Day a merry party left St. Dunstan's by coach for the annual trip to the Derby. The weather was good, as also were the arrangements for the party. For this we have to thank the able management of Bob Willis, who looked after everyone's needs very capably.

The Sir Arthur Pearson Competitions are proceeding satisfactorily.

CHARLES J. WALKER.

Outdoor Section

There will be an invitation 2 mile walk at the police sports to be held on July 12th, at Ipswich; entries to Mr. Dawkins at the Club. The Brighton Sports day will be July 9th, and entries should be sent to Mr. Dawkins as soon as possible.

The annual walk for the Farmer Cup was held at Brighton on May 17th, when two teams, London versus The Rest, competed over a seven mile course. Mr. Don. Cockell started the race, and a sharp pace was maintained from the "off." Gaygan, Brown, Miller and Williamson raced round the first lap, and then Williamson moved into second place and Miller into third, this order being kept to the finish. T. Denmead retired owing to a belated dinner, but L. Dennis, who was walking for the first time, put up a really excellent show, and we shall look forward to seeing him in future events. The Mayor of Brighton presented the Cup to T. Gaygan, on behalf of the winning team. Mr. Shuter again presented the fastest loser prize, which was won by W. Miller. So ended a very good walking season.

St. Dunstan's Seven Mile Walk

Order of Finish	Time	Hcp. All.	Hcp. Time	H'cap. Pos.
T. Gaygan ...	60-06	Scr.	60-06	1
C. Williamson ...	62-40	2-00	50-40	3
W. Miller ...	63-37	-40	62-57	6
(fastest loser)				
A. Brown ...	64-44	3-20	61-24	4
S. Tutton ...	68-26	7-50	60-36	2
C. Stafford ...	69-27	7-20	62-07	5
P. Cryan ...	70-44	7-00	63-44	7
A. Bradley ...	70-51	6-00	64-51	8
L. Dennis ...	79-01	7-00	72-01	9
Team—Rest of England		17		
London		19		

Handicapper and Timekeeper—W. J. Harris.

Prizewinners:

1st Handicap Race—	T. Gaygan.
2nd "	S. V. Tutton.
3rd "	C. Williamson.
Fastest loser	W. Miller.

Winning Team:—The Rest

T. Gaygan, W. Miller, C. Stafford, P. Cryan.

Derby Sweepstake, 1952

The draw for the Derby Sweepstake was included in last month's REVIEW, and St. Dunstaners will therefore know the lucky prizewinners. 2,824 tickets were sold, against 2,747 last year. After printing and postage expenses (26 15s. 0d.) had been deducted, a sum of £326 5s. 0d. was left for distribution in accordance with the published rules.

The draw was made at Headquarters on May 23rd, by Messrs. Jock Henry and Bruce Ingrey, with Mr. Willis supervising; a number of Club members and their wives, Miss Ibbettson, and other friends and helpers were also present.

The result was as follows:—

1st Tulyar ...	R. V. Ham, Glamorgan	£163/2/6
2nd Gay Time ...	F. Stew, Tewkesbury	£65/5/0
3rd Faubourg II ...	W. B. Moon Harrogate	£32/12/6

£65 5s. 0d. was distributed between thirty other starters, and the holders of these tickets received £2 3s. 6d. each. They were:—

Ararat II ...	A. BENNING, Tiptree ...	1078
Argur ...	E. SWAYNE, London, S.E.25	1961
Bob Major ...	W. G. MORRIS, Southbourne	44
Bold Buccaneer ...	E. W. READ, Portchester ...	608
Caerlaverock ...	C. A. LUKER, London, S.W.18 ...	836
Chavey Down... R. CHANDLER, Richmond, Yorks ...		1549
Fiery Torch ...	E. L. WOODS, Malmesbury	2369
Hasty Prince ...	W. H. HILL, Blackpool ...	1918
H.V.C. ...	S. BULL, Hemel Hempstead	1825
Indian Hemp ...	PADDY COOKE, Kingston...	1366
Kara Tepe ...	W. TROTT, Birmingham ...	1989
Khor-Mousa ...	E. BOWCOTT, Mitcham ...	994
La Varende ...	H. DAY, Brighton ...	1045
Marsyad ...	F. L. HUNT, London, N.W.3	896
Merry Minstrel ...	J. H. BURT, Southampton...	1676
Monarch More ...	H. G. GRANSBY, Perivale...	2219
Neath ...	W. J. WOODCOCK, Saffron Walden ...	132
Nick La Rocca ...	G. A. (" Archie ") BROWN, London, N.W.2 ...	152
Postman's Path ...	W. HARDING, London, N.4	487
Rego ...	J. CLYDE, London, N.W.10	458
Serpenyoe ...	Capt. W. APPLEBY, Reigate	203
Shahcrenda ...	A. J. RADFORD, Castle Cary	302
Silnet ...	J. LYNCH, Hornchurch ...	224
Silver Wraith ...	W. SHAYLER, Liverpool ...	2488
Speechmaker ...	P. ASHTON, Perivale ...	2398
Summer Rain... E. BREWER, West House ...		506
Thunderhead II ...	J. DELANEY, Taunton ...	2608
Trim Curry ...	W. HEUSHAW, Potters Bar	1871
Torcross ...	W. FLOWERS, Birmingham	2598
Worden II ...	A. PAULSON, Brighton ...	1668
The Field was drawn by E. CARPENTER, King's Langley ...		137

The remainder of the horses listed last month did not start.

The Liverpool Club

The thirty people who disembarked from a certain coach in Liverpool city centre at approximately 10.35 p.m. on the evening of Saturday, May 17th, did so with a general feeling of a day well spent. These St. Dunstaners and their wives had travelled from Liverpool in the early afternoon to the Railway Hotel, near Blackburn, at the express invitation of Mr. Bob Britten, a fellow St. Dunstaner. Along with Mr. and Mrs. Hindle, and many other good friends, Bob had prepared a right royal welcome. It was a gorgeous afternoon, and apart from enjoying the sun for its warmth, the party was also able to take advantage by having photographs taken. It was gratifying to see that from the start the Liverpoolians were in good hands as far as hospitality was concerned, for the buffet would have done justice to a Sultan's feast. Of course, our Club members rallied round to give this buffet the only treatment it deserved, and that was the old St. Dunstan's treatment. Ham sandwiches, pies and cakes were consumed fast and furious, and the slickness with which the food disappeared was something akin to the magic of the celebrated Indian Rope Trick. Eventually hosts and guests got down to a team match of darts, which ended happily enough in a draw. At the same time the Club was getting to grips with Britten and Co. in the game of dominoes. Without a doubt the outing was an unqualified success, and the party left with a deep feeling of gratitude towards Bob Britten and his chief friends and co-operators, Mr. and Mrs. Hindle. Before departing, our Chairman, Mr. J. C. Owen, made a final flourish by proposing a vote of thanks to all concerned; Vice-Chairman, Mr. A. Lincoln, was emphatic in seconding this motion, then the Secretary added a few informal remarks and summed up the Club's appreciation. As a final note, may I put it on record that on the journey home-wards the company, on finding that the residue of the memorable buffet had been put aboard, all rallied once more, and in a further demonstration of appreciation "scuffed the lot." "FRISBY."



C. Smith, of Walsall, is a keen fisherman, and has invented a float which is suitable for blind fishermen. He wonders if other St. Dunstaners would be interested.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I am wondering if there is any other St. Dunstaner, like myself, who met when he came to St. Dunstan's an old pal from his old battalion—and company. George Orrow was our regimental barber when I was in the Herts Territorials during the early part of the 1914—18 war. When we met, we found much to talk about, and I am now wondering if there are any more Herts Territorials in St. Dunstan's of those early days.

Yours sincerely,

G. FALLOWFIELD.

Southwick.

DEAR EDITOR,

It is indeed gratifying to find that my letter in the April issue of the REVIEW has brought forth criticism. I am happy to enlarge upon my previous comment, and maybe solve, explain and clarify.

Firstly, I have not been appointed to speak on behalf of Headquarters, I have merely availed myself of the opportunity to give an opinion and air my views, open to all St. Dunstaners, and which views and opinions I still adhere to. Despite my natural aptitude for imagination, a gift free to all, the "dos" alleged to be imaginary are indeed very tangible. I would refer Jock M. to the notice board in the hall at H.Q. when he next visits the London Club. Jock is maybe losing opportunities.

I must now query the allegation that I told the world I admired a certain person, via the B.B.C. I said, "I would like to entertain Gilbert Harding for three days." I would, but I do not necessarily admire a person because I would like to entertain him.

Good luck, Bill Edwards, I am glad that I can say you appear to do that which I ask the younger men to do, i.e., attend functions; you appear to have attended all types. I seem to have given others the impression that the younger men should not attend the parties, etc., but that is entirely wrong; attend all you can, and the best of luck, but what I do ask is that they should also attend some of the serious affairs. Regarding the number of St. Dunstaners in the Greater London area, it is, I understand, somewhere over three hundred, with the younger men in the minority of just under two to one.

I am sure that the numbers attending serious functions can be increased, and

I look forward to them doing so. To quote Jock M., "They lost their sight for freedom." I agree, all are free to attend or stay away, and I also am free to give my opinions, whilst he is free to agree or disagree with them.

Just to end upon a personal finding through attending the London Club, and functions of all kinds, I have made many friends amongst St. Dunstaners of all ages. I appreciate this friendship, and from all I learn something, and I shall still continue to do so and still remain an individual.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN A. MUDGE.

Tottenham.

DEAR EDITOR,

In reply to Mr. G. T. Shaw in the REVIEW of May.

I have my mother living with me who is 97 years old this month (June)—the mother of thirteen children.

Yours sincerely,

Birkenhead.

H. I. MORRIS JONES.

Middleton Towers Holiday Camp

DEAR EDITOR,

May I, through the columns of the REVIEW, say thank you to the Directors, Management and Staff of Middleton Towers Holiday Camp for the grand week's holiday they gave us.

Among the many entertainments held during the week was a boxing match, film show, and first class shows and orchestral concerts. It was also an occasion for meeting many old friends and making new ones.

On the Friday, we had the boys over from Blackpool to join us for the day, and here again came many old faces and much talk about old times whilst in training, etc.

I would like to say "good luck" to Roy Glover, who won the talent contest and goes into the final—it was a really grand show.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE EUSTACE.

Tolworth, Surrey.

Braille Reading Tests

Senior Reading Tests: W. Collins, Redhill (in December); A. Pecket, Manchester.

Elementary Reading Test: K. W. Hedges, Bexley.

British Legion Annual Conference

By AN OBSERVER

Delegates from all parts of the British Isles assembled at Guernsey over Whitsun for the British Legion Annual Conference, which proved to be one of the most controversial and high spirited meetings for many years.

There were 102 resolutions down on the agenda paper for discussion including 37 on pensions, but important though many of these items were, the censure motion calling on Sir Ian to resign the presidency overshadowed all other business. This motion claimed that Sir Ian had "forfeited the confidence of the Legion," and criticised his attitude in the House when he thanked the Chancellor for the grant of 10s. weekly to war-disabled pensioners. It also referred to Sir Ian's statement that the basic war disability pension should be £3 2s. 6d. "during the time that the Legion was looking to him for support in its struggle for a basic rate of 90s. a week." The mover and seconder were frequently interrupted, and when the proposer, Mr. H. W. Long, of Barking, said "It is unfortunate that Sir Ian represents a political party," there were shouts of "No" and "Withdraw." Mr. Long could only just be heard to add "The time has arrived to carry out the Legion's policy, the President must be free from any party obligations," and renewed cheers and booing drowned the rest of his remarks. Captain James Prince, of Cardiff, speaking against the motion, got a very different reception when he voiced the opinion of most delegates by describing the resolution as "repugnant," adding "The Legion has no place for the washing of dirty linen." Sir Ian, who was greeted with prolonged cheering when he rose to reply, said that he did not share the criticism that some had felt inclined to level against the mover or the seconder. They were entitled to their point of view and he thanked them for giving the conference an opportunity of discussing a matter which was one of principle. Sir Ian added: "I am charged with thanking Governments. Well, I have sat in Parliament for 28 years on and off—mainly on (laughter)—and I have been on one side or the other while there have been eight Governments. I have thanked them all, and I intend, so long as I am in

Parliament, and whether I speak officially for you or unofficially for ex-Service men generally, to continue to thank any Government and any Members who help us from time to time" (applause). It was absolutely untrue that he was more ready to attack a Labour Government, but was now holding back because he was a Conservative. Sir Ian added that while policy was made by the conference, the strategy and the tactics of a campaign must be left to some degree to the discretion of the leaders on the spot. He reminded the conference that at the very opening of the Legion campaign he not only counselled that they should ask for 90s., but he was the first to find statistical figures and justification for that amount. But he emphasised also that the matter must be discussed in the context of the national finances. If political pressure were put on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the point at which each section of the community demanded all it thought it was entitled to at any particular moment, no Chancellor would be able to balance his budget (applause). They must not expect to win the 90s. pension in one gigantic and glorious breakthrough, but rather by a series of hard-fought battles. Sir Ian ended: "I ask therefore for unity behind a policy which requires that our pensions be made up to 90s. by such stages as we can impress upon public opinion and upon the House as reasonable, and I ask you to vote on the issue of a strong and powerful Legion as a moderate, responsible body, fighting and fighting hard and courteously for the men whom it represents, but never neglecting the nation's interests" (applause).

When the motion was put to the conference, only five delegates voted for it and 650 were against. Sir Ian, who could have been re-elected earlier on the agenda, but preferred to answer the censure resolution first, was then unanimously re-elected, and the whole conference rose and cheered and sang "For he's a jolly good fellow." It was a most moving scene, and the enthusiasm and warmth of the delegates revealed even more than the voting that had just gone before, just how much the Legion was behind their leader.

The censure motion was taken on the first day of the conference and followed the speeches of welcome by the Governor of Guernsey (Lieut. General Sir Philip Neame) and the Bailiff (Sir Ambrose

Sherwin). In his Presidential Address, Sir Ian revealed that the membership of the Legion stood at over 1,250,000, compared with 1,400,000 in the peak year of 1946—a remarkable figure considering it was estimated that 150,000 had died, emigrated or rejoined the Forces. The Legion's housing loan scheme, under which interest free loans were granted, has so far helped over 9,000 families to live in a home of their own. Referring to re-armament, Sir Ian said "The British Legion, representing more than one million members, stands by the Government on all steps that are necessary to make this country safe and strong so that we may help to preserve world peace."

On the first day of the conference the National Chairman (Major General Sir Richard Howard Vyse)—who was also re-elected—presented the report of the National Executive Council, which revealed that Poppy Day receipts had been £27,000 up on the previous year's total. Colonel the Rt. Hon. the Lord Cromwell, the National Hon. Treasurer, was also re-elected.

On the second day the remaining resolutions were dealt with, and one of the most interesting—a move to ban Communists from the membership of the Legion—was defeated in a ballot by 430 votes to 126. "If it was necessary to exclude conscientious objectors after the First World War, surely it is necessary to exclude Communists now," said the mover. Urging the rejection of this amendment to the rules, Sir Ian observed "The way to deal with political thought with which you are in disagreement is, in my judgment, by argument and reason, not by banning." The majority of the conference were behind Sir Ian in his advice "to maintain the right of every man to hold the political or religious view which his conscience dictates."

The conference carried a resolution which expressed concern at the increased number of evictions of families of young ex-Service men, deploring the inadequacy of emergency housing accommodation, and calling for a review. Two delegates clashed over "bowlers or berets" for Legion standard-bearers, which provided a light relief to the more serious business of the day. Speaking against the proposal that the conference should recommend black berets with Legion badges as the official headdress, one delegate said "They can be as smart in

mufti as in semi-uniform. The black beret is very near to the black shirt, which could follow it." Amid shouts of protest another delegate cried "If a black beret leads to a black shirt they must have a Fascist organisation in the British Army already." (laughter). Berets for Standard Bearers won the day by a large majority. Another delegate criticised the Legion's annual Festival of Remembrance in London for a tendency to become "an advertising agency for the Forces." He moved a resolution, which was adopted, asking that the Festival should be a more fitting tribute to the fallen and a reunion of those who served "rather than an opportunity for a display of physical prowess by present serving members of the Forces."

The conference also carried a resolution renewing the Legion's demand for a basic 100% disability pension of 90s., compared with the present 55s. The delegates rejected an executive resolution asking for a Select Committee on war pensions, but carried the motion calling for an "Annual day of demand in connection with the pensions campaign," and also a resolution deploring "the complacent attitude of Members of Parliament" towards pensions. Other important items included the decision to support any legislation designed to provide cornea for grafting purposes to relieve blindness, and to press the claims of ex-Service men and women in this matter, while the most sympathetic reception was given for the resolution calling attention to the plight of war widows and ex-P.O.W.s.

St. Dunstan's was well represented at the conference for, apart from Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, the delegates included Captain William Appleby, O.B.E., a member of the St. Dunstan's Executive Council and a member until this year (he resigned on account of ill-health) of the British Legion Executive Council, and Mr. E. Russell, of Leeds, who was there with his wife. The National Council presented Captain Appleby with an illuminated address, signed by all its members, recalling the fact that he was a founder of the Legion and had been a member of the N.E.C. continuously since its inception, and expressing their regard and affection for him.

Eavesdropping

The term eavesdropping, in its most dramatic sense, conjures up a Cloak and Dagger picture. I always think of some sinister-looking character lurking behind a heavy velvet curtain, or else a Master Spy with one eager ear glued to a keyhole. I know this is carrying things a bit into the realms of fantasy, but whichever way I look at the word I visualise an Eavesdropper as a pretty nasty specimen. Yet I myself am not enveloped in a cloak, nor do I sport a dagger; no, not even a pen-knife. In all modesty I don't think I am a Nasty Character either, so how can I explain the naked fact that I am an Eavesdropper? What is more, I am going to try and justify it with the following lines.

Let me paint a picture, the Ovingdean lounge at teatime, crowds of St. Dunstan's bods perching all over the place stuffing themselves glassy-eyed with cakes and tea. I am sitting, or rather balancing, on the edge of a settee which also accommodates four other hungry St. Dunstaners, whose chatter makes my attempt at soliloquising rather difficult. I meditate profoundly on the chances of convincing the cake V.A.D. that I have not yet eaten or supped. A cup pushed hastily under the settee and some very crumbly floor space in front of me is my downfall. I am just about to slink craftily to another position when suddenly a few words from someone nearby float to my ears and make me sit up and take notice. I strain eagerly to catch again the voice which uttered the all important sentence. All I can hear is a continual hubbub and jabber of many voices, none of which I recognise. This kind of thing has happened to me frequently since I lost my sight. Normally I am not the least interested in other people's conversations, but on occasions such as I have described I unashamedly throw good manners to the wind, and cock my ears. That is why I brand myself as an Eavesdropper, not in a very big way, maybe, but an Eavesdropper nevertheless. Moreover, I contend that everyone, given the right provocation, will indulge in this indiscretion. Perhaps it is time I divulged what it was I heard in the lounge on this occasion. Quite simple, really, only a few words. Someone was remarking, in an apparently sane voice, that Matron Davis, of Blackpool, "keeps hundreds of elephants in her

room." Now if this had been heard as a direct statement for my special benefit I would have laughed, loud and long. Or else advised my informant to go to bed for a while and take things easy. Unfortunately, I overheard the wretched thing, and that very fact has added all the plausibility in the world to it. How on earth does Matron feed the brutes?

I do hope my point is becoming clearer now. It is my belief that Man's curiosity will lead him, or should it be drive him, to the ends of the earth, thus, when highly developed, a man's curiosity will make him a common or garden Nosey Parker.

I recall the time when, sitting alone at the top of the lounge, I became aware that a certain "Georgie" was being addressed in the most affectionate manner by an obviously lovesick female. I was fascinated, maybe because my name also happens to be George, and in a day-dreaming moment of whimsy I just sat and took it all in a near-swoon. However, my better judgment and honour prevailed, and I dragged myself away to a spot where I hoped I would overhear nothing so disturbing. It must have been my destiny on that day to hear things I shouldn't. From immediately behind me a very ancient St. Dunstaner was wheezing away to his neighbour in sympathetic tones about the Com's nasty fall down three flights of stairs. The reply was "Shut up, you fool, it doesn't come off till to-morrow." I did not move away that time, I couldn't. Then there was the afternoon when I cursed my luck as an eavesdropper. An individual, actually sitting next to me, asked his companion on the other side, what he thought of the band at the St. Dunstan's dance on the previous evening. "What a lousy drummer," was the unhesitating answer. They say that listeners never hear any good of themselves. How true. I was the drummer.

My final example of earflapping concerns two holidaymakers at the Blackpool Home last summer. A few of us were in the lounge, but the only two voices really audible were Mr. Baritone and Mr. Adenoids. They were directly across the room from me, and in spite of my own thoughts I was soon jogging along with them as a silent member of the company.

I gathered with casual interest that they had just met again for the first time in over thirty years. In those fabulous days at the

College they had apparently been bosom pals, or so I learned later on. I soon began to lose my powers of discretion once again. Adenoids and Baritone had certainly sown many a wild oat and burned the midnight oil in those far off days. Of the two, Adenoids was the more eloquent and descriptive, his friend seemed a little reluctant to dwell upon some of the escapades. Maybe Adenoids' half-hour in "The Star" had loosened his tongue, the expected arrival of Mrs. Baritone was probably making Baritone nervous. After many rather barrackroom reminiscences which I thoroughly enjoyed, Adenoids suddenly enquired if Baritone had enjoyed a happy married life. Without waiting for an answer he went on, "Always knew you'd marry Phoebe; strewth, how you two carried on." Someone entered the lounge and sat near the reunited cronies. Adenoids was undeterred, he warmed to his subject in his nasal tones "Remember how you said you'd cut your throat if Phoebe spoke to another St. Dunstaner, and how you wrote all that soppy poetry?" I began to feel uneasy, this was a bit personal. Then, just as Adenoids was narrating with obvious enjoyment the time when Baritone had not turned up at St. Dunstan's till after 4 a.m., there was the sound of someone jumping up in great haste, then a sharp feminine voice, "I'm not going to stop here to be insulted, with everybody listening." With that she stamped out of the room glaring at me. I knew she was glaring, for I felt it. I tried to look as though I was not listening as Baritone groaned "That was my wife, Mabel."

G. W. ELLIS.

Liverpool.

Rain

"Oh! Confound the rain!" How often, all over the well-watered areas of the world, do we hear this mild imprecation of the weather. But there is one place you won't hear it, and that is in the great Outback of Australia. The rough and ready pioneers, the stockmen, the drovers, the station owners, who are willing and very able to curse anyone and everything under the canopy of heaven, will never curse the rain. To them, rain is life itself. Rain is the difference between poverty and plenty.

From east to west, just above the centre line, and extending up north to the tropics,

lies a belt of country which is a cattleman's paradise—when it rains! Then, over thousands of square miles, the ground is covered with rich green grass—sometimes four to six feet high—lagoons and lakes are brimful of clean water. The cattle multiply, and the cattlemen prosper.

But the tall grass matures and seeds, and then, cured by sun and wind, becomes dry hay, losing none of its natural feed value. The months roll by, and the dry grass has been laid flat by the hot winds of the interior, and trampled into the dry red dust. The lakes and lagoons have shrunk in area, and are fringed with green ooze, constantly churned and stirred by the feet of thirsty animals. As time goes by the huge gaunt steers stagger weakly through the mud; they drink, but now have not the strength to drag themselves from the cloying mud, and there they die, sadly and stoically, after the manner of their kind. The stockmen spend long harrowing days dragging the unfortunate beasts clear of the precious water.

Each morning the station owner and his wife search the brazen blue skies for a hint of relief, hoping and praying for a hint that all might not yet be lost—just one little cloud to give hope. Evening comes, the hot red sun has dropped below the shimmering horizon, but no cool breeze comes to ease the suffering of the tortured land. The thermometer still reads over the century.

But the drought will break: that brazen sky will be covered with thick, dark, tumultuous clouds: the thunder will roar through the ageless ironstone hills, and the rain will fall! Great warm drops which, caressing the stricken earth, bring forth a scent so unutterably sweet that it can never be forgotten. The vivid green grass will once again carpet the dusty red plains. The herds will multiply again, and move slowly down the stock routes over miles of pink and white everlasting daisies, or the rich red desert pea. No, north of the 29th parallel, they don't curse the rain. They call it God's own Holy Water!

West Australia.

E. C. BULLEN.

Placement

J. Taylor, of Woodhouse, Sheffield, as a packer with Rempoy, Ltd.

Ovingdean Notes

Once again this year St. Dunstan's men resident in Brighton, including a party from West House and Ovingdean, have been entertained by the Sussex Freemasons. On May 6th a dinner and dance was held for them at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, which was much enjoyed by the large party who attended.

Another tireless friend of St. Dunstan's, Mr. Cheeseman, well known to many of our readers for the dances he organises at "The Arlington," Brighton, this month arranged a river trip for disabled ex-Servicemen. Coaches from the Brighton Homes joined up with men from Roehampton and the London Club, and then proceeded from Marlow to Windsor by river steamer. It was a great success in every way. Our thanks again to Mr. Cheeseman and his friends.

A first visit was paid to Ovingdean this month by the Langley Theatre Group, when they came to present their production of Tennessee Williams' play "The Glass Menagerie." The Music Hut was crowded and we were pleased that a good number of local St. Dunstaners were amongst the audience.

The Derby was once again well attended. Three coaches from Ovingdean and Brighton met up with the London Club coach. Once again, as the race was on a week-day, it was not possible for the trainees to be included in the party, but the best possible use was made of the radio at the time of the race!

Coach drives this month have been to Ockenden Manor and Drusilla's, both now confirmed favourites with St. Dunstan's men, and with the reopening of the Palace Pier Theatre we have once again been given free tickets to our men staying at Ovingdean on holiday, so that one more entertainment has been added to the many already available.

At Whitsun week-end the Centre was very full, and in the programme arranged were coaches to Fontwell Races, a drive to Wannock Tea Gardens, a Whist and Domino Drive (to which the local St. Dunstaners were invited), an extremely good Concert Party and a Gala Dance on Bank Holiday evening.

Finally now, a reminder that Sports Day is July 19th, and we hope to see as

many as possible of the Sussex St. Dunstaners and any from other parts who may be down our way at that time. Remember to apply for your tea tickets (which will be limited to one guest for each St. Dunstaner) as early as possible.

From the Chairman's Postbag

"Will the increase of 10s. a week on the basic rate of total disability pensions apply to alternative pensioners?"

H. NELSON, Bakewell.

Sir Ian replies:—

"The rise in the basic rate of 10s. a week does not apply to an alternative pension. All the Governments since the war have refused to apply rises to alternative pensions, though the British Legion has pressed the matter upon them. The reason the Ministry gives is that an alternative pension was a special feature of the First World War arrangements, and is not repeated for Second World War men.

We do not think this is satisfactory, but I am afraid there is nothing we can do about it, at least, not at present.

You are at liberty to exchange from an alternative pension to a basic pension if you wish to do so. There are some cases, particularly where family and other special allowances are available, where it pays a man to do this, and if you will write to Mr. L. Banks, M.B.E., at St. Dunstan's Training Centre, Ovingdean, giving particulars of your war pension, number of your pension book, etc., he will, I know, be glad to investigate your case individually and advise you whether you are getting all the pension to which you are entitled."

National Library for the Blind

Reading Competition

The E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition was held on May 17th, and we congratulate the following St. Dunstaners, who were successful in their different sections:—

Section I (Readers who lost their sight before 1938):

- 1st, T. Kent, Chelmsford.
- 2nd, S. Webster, Forest Hill.
- 3rd, F. A. Rhodes, Ovingdean.

Section II (Readers who have lost their sight since 1938):

- 1st, Miss Simpson (civilian).
- 2nd, F. Ripley.
- 3rd, R. Major.

From All Quarters

Lord Ismay, on becoming Secretary General of N.A.T.O. and residing in Paris, has resigned his membership of the Council of St. Dunstan's; Mr. Godfrey Robinson, who has become Chairman of the N.I.B. in his stead, has been invited to join St. Dunstan's Council and has accepted.

Captain C. C. Boyd Rochfort, trainer to Her Majesty the Queen, and well known to many St. Dunstaners, became a Companion of the Royal Victorian Order (C.V.O.) in the Birthday Honours.

F. W. Boorman, of Peterborough, took a big part in the production of "Show Boat," given by his firm's Dramatic Society. His daughter had taken one of the leading parts. There were masses of flowers for her, and a splendid basket of fruit for our St. Dunstaner after the show.

A. E. Hill, of Alresford, has been elected by members of Clacton Blind Club to be host for the Louis Braille Centenary Celebrations there in October. He received 2,333 votes, each vote representing a penny collected during the day.

Many local St. Dunstaners were present at the big production by the British Legion Players (Leeds) of "Good Night, Vienna, the proceeds of which were given to St. Dunstan's. Our St. Dunstaner, Mr. Ernest Russell, took a prominent part in the organisation of the event. He is a Member of the Northern Area Council and of the West Riding County Committee of the Legion.

Alan Hold, of Yeovil, toured with the Yeovil Temple Salvation Army Band during Whitsun, and on June 7th played with them as a solo band at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

Welcome to England to Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Foster, of Vancouver, Canada, who are here for a good holiday. Our St. Dunstaner (one of our First War men) has now retired.

A St. Dunstaner who is also a paraplegic—S. A. Belsham, of Broadway, Worcestershire—has made a wonderful doll's house on quite a large scale. Every detail is perfect, and the house is lit by electricity.

Tom Taylor, of Farrington, near Preston, was chosen by the members of Bolton Road

Methodist Church to open their new Memorial Hall. A large crowd listened to him and watched as he performed the ceremony.

On May 10th, J. W. Cookson, of Kendal, celebrated the 25th anniversary of his service with the Provincial Insurance Company. Mr. F. Scott, the Company's Chairman, in a personal message of congratulation and good wishes, wrote: "It is becoming quite difficult to think of the 'Provincial' telephone service without associating it with your name. May I just say what I am sure would be a universal expression—that we all appreciate your willing and cheerful service and the sound of your cheery voice."

Irish St. Dunstaners McCrea, Berry and Rutledge, and Miss E. Wilson, were present at the Victory Anniversary Reunion of the "Not Forgotten Association" in the Ulster Hall on May 8th.

Councillor H. W. Greatrex, M.M., of Peacehaven, has been re-elected to his Parish Council and will shortly attend a Conference of Parish Councillors to be held in the North.

"Lease of Life"

This is the title of a book which has just been published. Its author is Andrew Milbourne, a paratrooper who was captured by the Germans at Arnhem, where he lost both forearms and the sight of one eye.

It is a deeply moving story of his service in North Africa and Italy, of his testing time at Arnhem, and his experiences, with his grave disabilities, as a prisoner of war. He writes simply of his early difficulties, and of how he overcame many of them; of his attempt to get back into civilian life. (He first found himself a job in a coal-mine as a haulage engine man.)

To-day he is happily married, successfully filling a post in the Civil Service. He has gained for himself a new "lease of life."

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages

On May 24th, Peter Nichols (Hendon) to Miss Joan Wiltshire (London).

“ In Memory ”

Private Alfred Frederick Williamson, *Labour Corps (King's Liverpool Regt.)*

With deep regret we record the death of A. F. Williamson, of Chorlton-cum-Hardy. He came to us in 1918 after serving from May, 1917, until December of that year. He trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker, but for many years his health had been so poor that work was almost out of the question. He died in hospital on May 1st.

A wreath of poppies from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral.

He leaves a wife and grown-up children, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Sergeant Thomas Moore Fisher, *28th Australian Imperial Force*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of T. M. Fisher, who served with the Australian Imperial Force and was wounded at Villers-Bretonneux in July, 1918. He came to us in September of that year to train as a poultry-farmer, but returned to Australia in 1919. In 1922 he was back again and he then settled in Scotland. He was intensely interested in his farm and carried this on until a few months before his death, which occurred at his home on April 25th.

Sir Ian's wreath was among the many flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Fisher and her daughter.

Private Smith Thompson, *King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry*

We record with deep regret the death of S. Thompson, of Wakefield, which took place at West House on March 6th. He was 80.

Although he served with his regiment from September, 1914, until April, 1916, he did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1929, but he was not able to take up any serious work.

He was buried at his home town, and St. Dunstan's wreath from Sir Ian was among the flowers.

He leaves a wife and family, to whom our sincere sympathy is offered.

Sergeant David Nicol, *5th Canadian Western Cavalry*

With the death of David Nicol, we have lost another of our West House men.

David served with the 5th Canadian Western Cavalry, but it was not until 1937 that he returned to England and came under our care. He was then an elderly man and did not take any serious training. His health was not good and, after the death of his wife, he became one of our permanent residents at West House, where he died on May 23rd.

Wreaths from Sir Ian and from his comrades at Brighton were among the flowers at the funeral.

Private Cecil Challoner, *R.A.S.C. and Labour Corps*

We record, with regret, the sudden death on June 6th, of Cecil Challoner, of Beaumont, Jersey. He came to St. Dunstan's only in 1949, although his discharge from the Army was in June, 1918. He trained in netting.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and grown-up daughter.

Births

BOND.—In April, to the wife of W. G. Bond, of Ontario, Canada, a daughter.

ELLIS.—On April 17th, to the wife of Jimmie Ellis, of Rondebosch, Cape Province, South Africa, a daughter—Beverley Anne.

HARALAMBOUS.—On June 3rd, to the wife of A. H. Haralambous, of Lower Edmonton, a daughter—Helen.

MANNERS.—On June 11th, to the wife of Melville Manners, of Bridgend, a daughter.

PRESTON.—On May 18th, to Isobel, the wife of Geoff., a son—Thomas.

Marriages

BURNS—WOOD.—On June 7th, M. (“Micky”) Burns, of Leatherhead, to Miss Wood, late V.A.D. at Brighton.

CARMAN—SHELDRAKE.—On June 7th, P. Carman, of Saxmundham, to Mrs. Sheldrake.

FOULKES—COX.—On May 24th, W. Foulkes, of Bowbrick Hill, to Mrs. A. L. Cox.

Deaths

Our sincere sympathy goes out to the following :

DENNIS.—To J. L. Dennis, at present in training at Brighton, who lost his wife on June 6th.

HAYLOCK.—To J. Haylock, of Ickleton, who has suffered the loss of his sister.

HORAN.—To E. P. Horan, of Dublin, whose sister died on May 29th.

KILLINGBECK.—To G. Killingbeck, of Peacehaven, whose wife passed away on June 18th.

LIPSCOMBE.—To F. Lipscombe, of Exeter, whose father died at the end of May.

POLLITT.—To Arthur Pollitt, of Patricroft, near Manchester, in the sudden loss of his mother.

STRAND.—To A. E. Strand, of Ringwood, whose step-father has recently died.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 396—VOLUME XXXVI

JULY, 1952

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Mrs. Chadwick Bates Retires

MRS. E. M. CHADWICK BATES, O.B.E., who has been associated with St. Dunstan's for thirty-seven years, first as Secretary of our organisation and later as Organising Secretary to the South African Committee of St. Dunstan's, has retired, having reached pensionable age. Mrs. Bates is at present recuperating after a severe illness.

Mrs. Bates was one of Sir Arthur Pearson's principal assistants, and became first Secretary of St. Dunstan's in 1915. For her services in the First World War she received the O.B.E. She held the office of Secretary until 1930, when she went to South Africa to take charge of our organisation there.

During the Second World War, Mrs. Bates was responsible for the important work of organising "Tembani," the training centre in South Africa to which South African and British blinded soldiers came from the Middle East, prior to their return to their own homes. In the words of Jimmy Ellis, himself a Tembanian, "those who had the good fortune to know Batey during Tembani days will remember with deep gratitude the wonderful way in which she restored our confidence and hopes for the future. Her wise counsel set each one of us on the road to a future of hope and happiness."

"Batey"—as she is known to every South African in the Union, as well as to thousands of other St. Dunstaners who know her personally and are now scattered all over the world—will be much missed from her office in Cape Town and on her annual journeys through the Union and Rhodesia. Her bright and cheerful presence was always most welcome in the homes of her St. Dunstaners, while her enthusiasm for her work, and her attractive personality, inspired thousands of helpers in all parts of the Union to raise funds for St. Dunstan's and to take a practical interest in its men.

Mrs. G. I. Swan, M.B.E., who joined the South African staff of St. Dunstan's over a year ago on the recommendation of Mrs. Bates, has been appointed to the position of Organising Secretary in succession to Mrs. Bates. Mrs. Swan was previously Chief Organiser and Secretary of the Overseas Section of the Red Cross and St. John Fund, in London. Mr. James (Jimmy) Ellis, well known to St. Dunstaners in Great Britain as well as in South Africa, continues his work as Appeals Organiser there.

A number of St. Dunstaners in South Africa have already expressed a wish to subscribe to some gift as a token of their affection and esteem, and a small committee has

been formed to organise a Presentation Fund for this purpose; it is understood that this committee will address a letter to old Tembanians who are living in Britain.

I think that St. Dunstaners in the Old Country who knew Mrs. Bates personally may also like to express their affection for her by making a presentation either separately or by adding their contributions to the South African gift. To avoid any misunderstanding or overlapping in this matter, I suggest that Tembanians await this letter from the South African committee and then answer it direct, and that other St. Dunstaners in Britain should send their subscriptions to Mr. W. G. Askew, C.B.E., (1 South Audley Street, W.1), who has kindly offered to act as Honorary Treasurer for the British Fund.

Some time in 1917, Sir Arthur Pearson asked me to work for St. Dunstan's, and it was to Mrs. Bates that I went for instruction. I can well remember at the old house in Regent's Park going to her office from time to time to hear her interviewing, dictating letters and giving instructions, and then being given packets of letters which I had to answer for her and which she corrected and discussed with me. Thus I began to learn my job from one who knew it so well, and subsequently, when I became Chairman, Mrs. Bates was my right hand as Secretary of St. Dunstan's until she went to South Africa. No one, I think, in the history of St. Dunstan's, has evoked such warm feelings of affection and regard as Mrs. Bates, and all who knew her personally, as well as many who know her by repute, will join in wishing her a good recovery from her illness and happiness in her retirement.

IAN FRASER.

Handless St. Dunstaner Wins Degree

David Bell, M.A.

St. Dunstaners everywhere will join with us in congratulating David Bell upon obtaining his Master of Arts Degree at Edinburgh University. David graduated at the University on July 4th.

First training at Tembani, South Africa, he came to Church Stretton in 1943. There he met Miss Sybil Page, whom he married in 1945. He took over a tobacconist's business in Edinburgh, and within a few years became one of our most successful shop-keepers. A little over two years ago he interested himself in politics, and began a special post-war course of study for his M.A. degree at Edinburgh University. He has completed the course in two years, the normal term of study being three years. He took Second Class Honours in Social Anthropology, and also studied economics, moral philosophy and English literature.

David has now applied to the University to study for the Bachelor of Commerce degree.

Personal

Frank Gresson, a St. Dunstaner, and his band have a few vacant bookings for dances, weddings, or social functions. They appeared at the Royal Albert Hall, May 30th, 1952. Enquiries to Thornton Heath 6871.

Festival Gardens, Battersea Park

St. Dunstaners are reminded that the Directors of the Festival Pleasure Gardens at Battersea Park have invited St. Dunstaners to visit the Pleasure Gardens free of charge from Monday, July 28th, to Saturday, August 2nd, inclusive. Admission is from 11.30 a.m. to 11.30 p.m. Each St. Dunstaner may bring his wife or one escort free, but additional friends or members of the family would have to pay the ordinary entrance fee. No tickets are required, but St. Dunstaners must wear their badges.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser will attend a ceremony at the Gardens to inaugurate this Ex-Servicemen's Week at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, July 28th.

From the Chairman's Postbag

DEAR SIR IAN,

I always look forward to reading your Chairman's Notes.

Regarding spent matches, it is quite a simple operation to slip them into the back of the box. Several can be disposed of in this way before the necessity arises of throwing them away altogether, which can be done at a favourable opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Bedford.

W. V. SARGENT.

London Club Notes

The London Club will be closed for the holidays after the dominoes on July 31st, and will reopen on September 1st, except for the three Saturdays, 16th, 23rd and 30th August, when it will be open from 2 until 10 p.m.

The annual match with the R.A.F. took place on June 28th, amid blazing sunshine. Unfortunately, the main body of R.A.F. boys arrived late owing to their coach breaking down, and we had a three-cornered match, as you will see in the results. St. Dunstan's won the cup, and the outstanding walker of the afternoon was that grand veteran, Archie Brown, who was the first St. Dunstanian in with the splendid time of 43 min. 40 sec. We were delighted to welcome Sir Ian and Lady Fraser. Sir Ian, who acted as starter and presented the prizes, paid tribute to the sportsmanship of all who took part in the event, and put up a special prize for the R.A.F. lads who, owing to their late arrival, had a little race all to themselves. We shall look forward to meeting these chaps on their own ground next year.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge

On July 21st, twenty-four St. Dunstanians went to the Headquarters of the London Contract Bridge Association to play against the Masters, who included many of the best bridge players in the country. We had a very enjoyable afternoon, the winning St. Dunstan's team of four being Messrs. Wiltshire, Douglas, Thompson and Collins. Mrs. Stern, the wife of the late Dr. Paul Stern, whose system we all play, was Captain of the Masters for the afternoon, and the whole proceedings were very capably managed by that old friend of St. Dunstan's bridge players, Mr. A. E. Field.

H. GOVER.

Indoor Section

The Section has had a quiet month. On June 13th we proceeded by coach to the Park Royal Vehicle Club's Sports Club for a social evening, with darts, cribbage, and dominoes. Socially, the evening was a great success, but, sad to relate, our darts team at last met their Waterloo, being defeated by a very strong team. However, this is the first loss in nine matches, and the team have had a very creditable season.

The cribbage pair and the dominoes pair both won their games and, so far, the cribbage pair are undefeated.

All in all, the Indoor Section have had a very successful season.

I hope for the support of the Section in the coming winter season; we are already booking fixtures for the autumn and winter.

C. J. WALKER.

Outdoor Section

May I remind you to send your entries for the Swimming Gala on October 4th. The first walk of the winter season will be the 2 miles at Highgate Harriers, so will you also send your entries for this event.

T. GAYGAN.

St. Dunstan's 5 Mile and Match with R.A.F. (Halton), Regent's Park, 28th June, 1952

Also Triangular Match with Metropolitan Police

Order of Finish	Time	All.	H'cp.	Pos. in
			Time	H'cp.
Towers	R.A.F. 43-14	Scr.	43-14	7
Brown	St. D. 45-40	4-30	41-10	2
Williamson	St. D. 46-20	3-15	43-05	5
Miller	St. D. 46-49	3-40	43-09	6
Collins	M.P. 47-15			
Spencer	M.P. 47-40			
Fitch	M.P. 47-50			
Johnston	R.A.F. 48-32	8-10	40-22	1
John	M.P. 49-14			
Burns	M.P. 50-16			
Cryan	St. D. 50-34	7-20	43-14	7
Stafford	St. D. 51-00	8-30	42-30	4
Hawkridge	M.P. 51-34			
Liddle	M.P. 52-18			
Dyer	R.A.F. 52-37	6-40	45-57	9
Dennis	St. D. 54-02	12-20	41-42	3
Denmead	St. D. 54-17	7-45	46-32	10
Tutton	St. D. 56-05	7-10	48-55	11
Gaygan	St. D. disqualified			

Match—St. Dunstan's 9, R.A.F. 24.

Triangular Match—St. Dunstan's 9, Police 18, R.A.F. 24.

Timekeeper and Handicapper—W. J. Harris.

St. Dunstan's 5 Mile, Regent's Park, June 17th, 1952, and Match with Bowring A.C.

Order of Finish	Time	All.	H'cp.	Pos. in
			Time	H'cp.
Gum	Bowring 42-55			
Gaygan	St. D. 43-18	Scr.	43-18	3*
Williamson	St. D. 44-47	1-50	42-57	2
Brown	St. D. 45-38	3-20	43-18	3*
Miller	St. D. 46-13	2-05	44-08	6
Howse	Bowring 46-56			
Cryan	St. D. 48-28	7-35	40-53	1
Sykes	Bowring 49-12			
Mimms	Bowring 49-16			
Taylor, D.	Bowring 49-37			
Stafford	St. D. 49-58	6-40	43-18	3*
Ferguson	Bowring 49-59			
Philpson	Bowring 51-52			
Taylor, G.	Bowring 52-24			
Shephard	Bowring 52-34			
Ellingford	Bowring 53-36			
Lancaster	Bowring 58-10			
Porter	Bowring 58-11			

*Dead heat for 3rd place.

Match—St. Dunstan's 32, Bowring A.C. 46.

Handicapper and Timekeeper—W. J. Harris.

Presentation to Miss Pain

The London Club was crowded on Tuesday, July 8th, for the presentation to Miss Pain of a tallboy and gold wrist watch, the gift of St. Dunstaners all over the country.

Mr. Askew, who had acted as Honorary Treasurer of the Presentation Fund, said it was thought appropriate that it should be made at the Club, for here all London men at some time or another foregathered. Sir Ian, in the *REVIEW*, had paid tribute to the work done by Miss Pain. This gift was an expression of the warm regard and admiration of St. Dunstaners for Miss Pain's help and friendship, and of their thanks. At Christmas time Miss Pain was going overseas to Canada, Australia and New Zealand. She would take with her on her travels their good wishes, but more than that, they wished her happiness and good luck always. Mr. Askew then called on Mr. Percy Ashton, Secretary of the London Club, to make the presentation on behalf of St. Dunstaners. Percy then handed to Miss Pain the gold watch, which bore the inscription, "D.A.P., from St. Dunstan's friends, 1952." (The tallboy, he said, was too bulky to bring along). In a brief but model speech he said that when St. Dunstaners came to the London Club they relaxed; when they relaxed they thought of their very good friends. Miss Pain had been more than a friend, and he spoke for St. Dunstaners everywhere when he said "Thank you, Miss Pain, for everything."

Miss Pain said simply: "It is not easy to say thank you. You have given me your trust and friendship, which have made my life rich. Your gifts are very precious to me. They will be—I will not say a reminder, because I do not need a reminder of you—but rather a knowledge of your love and friendship."

Mr. H. Crabtree then called for three St. Dunstan's cheers for Miss Pain, and as their echo still rang round the Club rooms, the gathering broke up and Miss Pain took the opportunity of meeting many old friends until the members settled down to their evening's whist.

* * *

As in past years, there will be no *REVIEW* published for the month of August.

Miss Pain's Thanks

Once again I send my heartfelt thanks to all those St. Dunstan's friends who have given me such a wonderful presentation.

The gold wrist watch and the beautiful tallboy will be a constant source of pleasure and inspiration, knowing they have been given with the good wishes of so many true friends.

DOROTHY A. PAIN.

Braille Centenary Celebrations

As announced in last month's *REVIEW*, Mr. W. G. Askew, C.B.E., Secretary of St. Dunstan's, represented our organisation at the ceremony in Paris at which the ashes of Louis Braille were buried in the Pantheon. The remains had been brought from the tiny cemetery at Coupvray, where Louis Braille was buried in 1852.

The President of the French Republic, Monsieur Vincent Auriol, attended.

* * *

The Braille Centenary Exhibition at the National Institute for the Blind, was opened on June 11th by H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. The exhibition, which closed on July 5th, proved a tremendous success. Thousands of people visited it, and the Organising Committee is to be congratulated upon a fascinating display. Even those who have followed the development of braille, and devices for the blind, could not fail to be intensely interested in the exhibits. One—a prototype of a new machine to print braille—will revolutionise the printing of newspapers and magazines.

This plant, when developed, will, it is hoped, facilitate the production of any number of copies of braille books on thinner and cheaper paper than that now used. Since the dots are solid (a specially developed plastic ink is pumped through a stencil on to the paper) both sides can be used.

* * *

Mr. Tommy Milligan has presented to the Braille Room at Ovingdean a bust of Louis Braille, to mark the centenary of this great man. The bust, which is just under eight inches high, is a plaster copy of a work executed in 1853 by the sculptor, Joffroy. It has been accepted with great pleasure and appreciation of Tommy's generous and kindly thought.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

No Messing About With Braille

There is in use to-day a good system of braille shorthand, and an even better braille script; to make a synthesis of both will lead inevitably to ambiguity and the braking of reading speed.

Some years ago the Braille Revision Committee, after much hard and imaginative work, hammered out of the old, semi-religious script a system of braille more in keeping with modern needs. During their labours this committee had to keep in mind three opposing claims, namely, the saving of space, the fluency of reading, and the difficulties of teaching the newly-blinded a formidable collection of contractions, abbreviations and complicated rules. Now, although one may criticise specific points, such as the dropping of the capital sign, they reached a general compromise between the rival claims, which was undeniably fair.

The saving of space is quite a simple matter; all you have to do is increase the number of contracted prefixes and suffixes, but if different groups of blind people are to have their own braille systems, those readers whose tastes lie in reading will have to develop a degree of mental dexterity equalled only by the multi-linguistic.

Yours faithfully,

DOUGLAS WARDEN.

Shepherds Bush Green, W.2.

DEAR EDITOR,

May I, as an avid brailist, add my support to the Chairman's suggestion on the subject of contracting recurring names in the REVIEW. I have for long thought we could use contractions, not to be found in any text book, but which the context of the sentence would leave no doubt as to the word represented, such as "The Club paid a rtn visit . . .", "We held our anl meeting . . ." Again, there are many words beginning with ex where the e could be dropped without phonetic loss, for xample, xpres, xtend, xams, etc., etc.

I submit the above suggestion in the belief that there could be a saving of time and space, without any attendant confusion.

Yours sincerely,

T. ROGERS.

Ovingdean.

DEAR EDITOR,

The First Factory Worker?

The Chairman's speech on the disabled in industry resulted in discussion as to which St. Dunstan was the first industrial worker in a factory. John Davies, of Darwen, Lancs., took a job in a radio factory at Coventry in September, 1924.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE FALLOWFIELD.

Ovingdean.

DEAR EDITOR,

A "Free Do"

On Friday, June 20th, a large party of men and their wives set out for Clacton by taxi. This was an invitation from the London Taxi Drivers, and a grand day it was. Our first stop was the British Legion at Chelmsford, where we had tea and sandwiches, then on to Clacton for the grandest lunch we have had for years. The afternoon was ours to do as we liked, and deck chairs were free. My party and I went for a sea trip. Then back to Cordy's Restaurant for a high tea.

At six o'clock we left for home, stopping again at Chelmsford for beer and sandwiches, and a grand concert given by the taxi drivers, and if Jock (the padre) and Sylvester have to pack up taxi driving, I'm sure they can always earn their living with their songs and jokes.

This was a day enjoyed by all, and we would have to travel far and wide before we meet such a grand lot of chaps.

JOCK MACFARLANE.

Ilford.

DEAR EDITOR,

Forty Years After

I read with interest the letter by G. Fallowfield about meeting his pre-war chum at St. Dunstan's. I had a similar experience, but mine went back to my school days.

In the summer of 1947, I went to West House for a holiday. I reported at the office and an orderly showed me to my ward, leaving my daughter in the hall. When we arrived at Ward 5 the orderly said "This is your bed, mister. There is only one other bed in the ward and the man is asleep on it. Don't make a lot of noise, because he doesn't like being awakened from his afternoon sleep," and

he left me to unpack. Whilst I was unpacking, the fellow on the bed woke up. "Hello," he said. I replied, "Hello, chum; my name is Hamilton, what's yours?" "What, Benny Hamilton," and I replied "Yes." He sat up on the bed, grasped my hand, pumped it up and down and said, "Well, I am pleased to see you, Benny." "I can see you are," I said, "but what is your name?" He replied "Fred Alcock." "What, Fred Alcock from Ecklington?" and he said "Yes." Then we started reminiscing. After 10 that night we again met and started "swopping knives" again. When I heard the birds whistling outside I looked at my watch and remarked "Do you know, it's after five." We never slept at all that night.

I had left my home town in 1907; he had left his in 1906, so we had not met for over 40 years. When I had last seen him he was a tall, willowy lad, about as far through as a tram ticket, but when I ran my fingers over him, he was over 16 stone I said, "You've had a good home somewhere," and he replied, "I've been in West House for some years."

I also met another fellow in St. Dunstan's who worked under me when he was a boy in pre-1914 days, but that's another story.

Yours sincerely,

Thetford.

BENNY HAMILTON.

DEAR EDITOR,

A group of physiotherapists gathered at Ovingdean on Saturday, June 14th, for a lecture and practical demonstration under the skilful guidance of Mr. T. Roden, M.R.O., in the art of manipulation. Much ground was covered, and without doubt we all benefited enormously from this unselfish act on the part of "Terry," as we affectionately call him. Here was a portrayal of the motto, "Service before Self," for much time and a great deal of thought must have gone into the preparation of this whole day's work. There are others to follow.

I desire to offer publicly on behalf of my colleagues and myself our grateful thanks and appreciation for his thought on our behalf, and add that I am certain the knowledge gained will enhance our practice, and more particularly the younger of our profession, in the future.

Yours very sincerely,

Salisbury.

EDWARD SLAUGHTER.

[This was one of a number of lectures arranged by Terry.—ED.]

Increases in Pensions Allowances

The Government have decided to make the following increases:—

Attendance Allowance:

The 10/- allowance will be increased to 12/6.
The 20/- allowance will be increased to 25/-.
The 30/- allowance will be increased to 37/6.
The 40/- allowance will be increased to 50/-.

The increases will become payable on the pension pay-day nearest to July 31st.

Allowance for Wives or Adult Dependants Payable to Men in Receipt of Unemployability Supplement:

The allowance will be increased from 16/- to 21/6.

Allowance for First Child of Men in Receipt of Unemployability Supplement:

The allowance will be increased from 10/- to 10/6.

These increases follow questions Sir Ian put to the Minister of Pensions in the House after the Budget was introduced recently.

We are informed by the Ministry of Pensions that the increases will be made automatically and there will be no necessity, therefore, for St. Dunstan's men to apply for them.

Another Concession

Speaking at a Derbyshire British Legion Rally at Chatsworth, on Saturday, July 5th, Sir Ian Fraser, the Legion's President, said: "We must work for a 90s. basic pension, and should argue that it is just and right and overdue. Yet we must not expect to win 90s. in one glorious break-through, but rather by a series of hard-fought battles steadfastly sustained."

"Only this week we had a minor success in the pension field. Following an amendment I tabled to the Pensions Increase Bill—which gives more to retired civil servants and others—the Government has promised that £104 a year of a war pension will be disregarded in applying a Means Test under the Bill. This is an advance of £52 on the previous position."

✱ ✱ ✱

T. Beckett, of Lurgan, who is with the United Kingdom Optical Co., Ltd., is giving every satisfaction, says his manager. He is very popular with his workmates and, in fact, with all the staff. When the Minister of Labour, Sir Walter Monckton, visited the factory, he was photographed with the Minister.

Some Impressions of England

by DONALD MCPHEE, O.B.E.

The long voyage from New Zealand draws to a close when the Bishop Rock lighthouse comes into view, and a few hours later the Lizard and the coast of England is watched from every vantage point on the ship. Some of the passengers are visiting England for the first time, others are returning to their loved ones, and there are the seasoned travellers who have made frequent visits to the homeland, but the sight of the green and cultivated fields, the hedgerows, never fails to stir the emotions, and all view the slowly moving scene in silence. Then Portsmouth, the Isle of Wight, and we move slowly up the Solent in the wake of those majestic liners, the Queen Mary and the Queen Elizabeth, and finally we are berthed at the port of Southampton. The excitement is intense and, with efficient organisation, we are soon through the Customs; two hours later we leave in the train for Waterloo and London. This is my third visit to England, although it is twenty-seven years since I was here last. As was the case on previous occasions, my thoughts mingled with the past and I felt the power of English tradition, which had been so great an influence in shaping the history of the world. In recent years it has been said that Britain is on the wane as a world power. I find this hard to believe, and although her economic position is in jeopardy, I was anxious to find whether the British character—the real strength of any country—had changed.

A warm welcome awaited us at Waterloo station, where a number of relatives and friends had gathered to meet us. A St. Dunstan's car waited to take us to our hotel. We drove past many of the old landmarks—Westminster Abbey, Big Ben, Piccadilly, Regent Street, St. James's Palace, Buckingham Palace—all as stately as ever. Baker Street was familiar ground as I had lived, in 1917, 1918 and 1919, at St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park. Old memories were quickly revived. For the first week, my wife, my daughter and I visited the city daily, travelling on buses, in taxis, and in private cars, and my first impression was of the enormous increase in the London traffic. One can get some idea of it when it is realised that eighty thousand vehicles pass Hyde Park Corner every day. Also we travelled on the three layers of traffic

underground, did some business at the banks, shipping companies, some shopping, and everywhere we found courtesy, kindness, and a willingness to give good service. With all this great increase in traffic, all drivers of vehicles remain cool and there is no confusion. London drivers have a code of their own, and they should be an example to the rest of the world, and especially to New Zealand.

To see St. Paul's standing in an area which was devastated all around by bombing is a most inspiring sight.

During the first week in London we listened to a debate in the House of Commons, and I felt strongly that our system of democracy could not satisfactorily be replaced. Neither Mr. Churchill nor any of the more prominent Ministers was in the House, but we did see Sir Ian Fraser come into the Chamber, alone, and go to his seat. Afterwards we enjoyed lunch at the House of Commons with Sir Ian and his charming Lady Fraser.

On two occasions I enjoyed lunch at St. Dunstan's, Marylebone Road, and the afternoons were spent discussing questions of training, welfare, etc., with the various heads of departments. I also visited the Braille Centenary Exhibition, and although I have to see a great deal more, I am convinced that the services to blinded Service men and civilian blind are of a very high standard.

The war has certainly left its mark on the English people. The characteristic reserve is still more impersonal, even to the point of indifference to strangers, but behind all this there is a strong resolve to help Britain back on to an even keel.

We in New Zealand share equally your great affection for Her Majesty the Queen and all the Royal family. Her Majesty is a symbol of our unity, stronger than any legislation, or any agreement on paper. Long may she reign to maintain and foster those bonds of Empire.

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From New South Wales, Australia, comes a cheery note from C. Hills. Charlie will be remembered by quite a number of men in England. He says "We oldsters are looking forward to a visit from Miss Pain. I see Don Gibson whenever I go to town and we swap the latest doings, both at the School and here. Wishing to be kindly remembered to any of the really old lads, and also any members of the staff who can recall '15—'16."

Visitors to Britain

We have been very glad indeed to welcome to Britain during the past month Dr. W. J. Oxenham, from Canada, here on a short holiday with Mrs. Oxenham; G. V. Watson, of Victoria, Australia, who, with Mrs. Watson, is enjoying six months' extended leave, and R. Pilon, of Canada, who, with his wife, is in England for an extended holiday.

From St. Dunstan's Review

(South Africa)

We learn

THAT Bob Owen, Pietermaritzburg, has been spending a short holiday with John Verster, at Somerset West.

THAT Sam Schemper recently had a reunion in Johannesburg with old friends of his training days.

THAT Ken Storath keeps a steady trade going at his shop.

THAT Frank Mandy still catches the business man's train from Krugersdorp to Johannesburg, where he spends a busy day massaging patients in a doctor's clinic.

THAT Polly Botha finds more than enough patients to keep him busy at the hospital at Germiston.

THAT Tom Hart arrived in Cape Town from Durban, at the beginning of the year, was not long in starting work with Jimmy Crawford, and that at the end of March took over the practice when Jimmy went into a well-earned retirement.

THAT his retirement will begin with a long holiday in Europe with Mrs. Crawford.

Bowls

Albert Mason, of Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, has become a playing member of his local Bowling Club. He is a very keen player and is often to be seen, resplendent in club blazer, sending his woods up the rink, achieving a high degree of accuracy.

Although bowls has not been taken up widely in Great Britain—only a few individual St. Dunstaners are players—the game has been taken up almost generally by Australian blinded ex-Servicemen. Joe Lynch is Chairman of the Victorian Blinded Soldiers' Bowling Club, L. T. Hout is Manager, and A. E. McConnell is Press Correspondent. All are 1914–1918 men, with the exception of Bill Gray. Bill is twenty-six and partially paralysed, but his game is improving so rapidly that his father-in-law, Albert Aldersley, blinded in 1914–1918, is doing an extra bit of practice to keep up with him.

Reunions

The Irish meetings took place in June. At Belfast, the Lord Mayor welcomed the guests, where Mr. W. R. Knox, Chairman, Northern Area, British Legion, was also present. Capt. E. Oliver Humphries, Chairman of the Southern Area, British Legion, was at Dublin, on the 11th, and at Cork, two days later, the Lord Mayor was the guest of honour. Miss Pain was at all the meetings.

July began with the Bedford Meeting, on the third. Everyone was delighted to meet Lady Fraser there. Mr. Mackay read a message from Sir Ian. Retired members of the staff present included Miss Pain, Mr. Lale and Mr. Ottaway. One of the happiest touches was supplied by the confectioner who iced the cake. On top, in braille, he had written "Fondest greetings!"

Young St. Dunstaners

Gerald Fisher (Glasgow) has obtained his degree of M.A. at the University of Glasgow, with honours in Political Economy and Political Science.

Stuart Eccles (Wigan) has obtained his B.Sc. (Tech.) with honours in Electricity and English.

Edward Brockie was capped Master of Arts at Aberdeen University on July 4th.

Brenda Hazel (London, S.W.19) has obtained her B.Sc. at Nottingham University.

At the prize-giving of North Gloucestershire Technical College, Charles Dembenski received the National Federation of Building Trades Employers' prize for plumbing.

Peter Story, Ashford, has passed his intermediate examination for the Royal Institute of British Architects, and Harry Burnett, Sutton, Surrey, has been awarded the Teaching Diploma of Art (Edinburgh).

Marriages

Colin Pink, Monkton, near Ramsgate, on May 31st, to Diana Barbara Kennett.

Margaret Walden, Norbury, on June 21st, to John Brian McConnell.

Harold Calvert, Ormskirk, on May 31st, to Hilda Hayes.

On June 14th, Margaret Davies (Meols), to Harry Bury, B.Sc. Margaret has a B.A. degree.

Blackpool Notes

Blackpool is in the news again. March was the last time we were mentioned, so we have some time to make up.

On the afternoon of Thursday, May 8th, we had a visit from the well-known singing star from "Musical Hall" and "Variety Bandbox," Jimmy Young (who was "topping the bill" at the Palace Theatre), and his very charming wife, Sally Douglas, who will be remembered for her work with Geraldo's Orchestra. The visit was arranged by our own singer, Gerry Brereton.

After this the boys were assembled in the Lounge, where Jimmy sang some songs in his usual effortless style, then Mr. Young suggested that Gerry Brereton should sing, and he duly obliged. Everyone had enjoyed a wonderful half-hour, and Jimmy Young, replying to a vote of thanks, said that he and Mrs. Young had enjoyed every minute of the visit. He also said how impressed they were, and were looking forward to visiting Ovingdean when next in Brighton. A message from Blackpool to Ovingdean: You have a treat in store, so keep the piano tuned.

On May 17th a coach load of revellers set out, at 9.30 a.m., to visit Leeds, where they had lunch at the Victoria Hotel. In the afternoon they visited the Empire Theatre as the guests of the Philharmonic Society, who produced—most successfully—"Good Night, Vienna." A tired, but happy, family returned at 11.30 p.m. Our St. Dunstaner, Ernie Russell, was responsible for the joy of the revellers.

On the morning of May 30th, the Directors of Middleton Towers Holiday Camp sent two coaches to convey St. Dunstaners in and out of Blackpool, with wives and staff, to the camp, to join their comrades who were there for the week.

The second annual Grocers' Outing took place on June 18th—leaving the Home about 9.30 a.m., the route included Windermere—with lunch at the Chestnut Tree Cafe—on to Ambleside and Lake Coniston, where a cup of tea sufficed to keep spirits going until high tea was served at Greenodd—a wonderful day enjoyed by all.

Frank Randle invited us to his Central Pier show on Saturday, June 21st, and this proved a great success.

To celebrate St. Dunstan's taking over the Blackpool Home on June 24th, 1940, we again went to the Lakes. Twelve years

in Blackpool—what memories conjure up. After so many years in Brighton it came as a shock to our St. Dunstaners to be treated as strangers. In many cases the peace of bombless nights compensated for these happy times, but others compared Blackpool—unfavourably—with Brighton.

We are now well established and local entertainments managers and staffs, as well as transport staffs, are exceptionally kind.

Many will be interested to know that the *Sunday Dispatch* Manchester to Blackpool Walk took place on June 28th. The walkers passed the end of Wimbourne Place. They reminded us of "the good old days" when our St. Dunstaners walked from London to Brighton. In the words of one of our number, "those *were* the days."

I wonder how many remember the days when Matron Thellusson took us in coaches to meet the walkers as they neared Brighton—and the day the tramcar overhead cable broke—the live ends falling between the two coaches as we moved slowly between the Saturday afternoon shoppers on the London Road? Yes, those *were* the days.

I have been told by many St. Dunstaners and their wives that they are always disappointed if there are no Blackpool notes in the REVIEW. Lack of mention since March is due to Eliza Doolittle doing less for nine weeks when I was on sick leave. I shall be grateful if the Editor will permit me to express my appreciation to *all* who were so kind during my illness. I was deeply touched by the lovely messages—tangible and intangible—all of which made me more and more anxious to return to duty.

I was sorry to miss so many old friends when they visited Blackpool, and I should like to thank them all for their co-operation with the staff during their visits. Thank you each and every one. God bless you.

B. VAUGHAN DAVIES.

Birmingham Club

Three coachloads of members and escorts set off on Sunday, June 15th, for our outing to Trentham. It was anything but "flaming June," but nevertheless we enjoyed a very good day, only marred by the fact that, by an unhappy accident, our Wolverhampton friends were not picked up. Mr. Thomas, who gave us the use of the coaches, was present with a number of Red Cross helpers. Sports were held after tea, and the children enjoyed paddle boats, swings, and a miniature railway.

Ovingdean Notes

Our overseas visitors to Ovingdean this month have included Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Tynan, from the United States of America, who visited England on their way to the Louis Braille Centenary Celebrations in Paris. Mr. Tynan, who is blind, is the Chief of the Services for the Blind of the Federal Security Agency of Vocational Rehabilitation in Washington.

Towards the end of June we also received two visitors from Sweden and another from Yugoslavia. All three ladies are engaged in teaching the blind in their own countries, and were particularly interested in the handicraft training available here. Mrs. Janezic-Mikes, from Yugoslavia, is employed teaching war disabled children, many of whom are both blind and handless. The specially adapted loom for the handless in use here was therefore of special interest.

This month there are two annual events which are always eagerly awaited by St. Dunstaners locally, and no less by those lucky enough to be spending a holiday at Ovingdean, or resident at West House, when they fall due. The first, the Southdown and Brighton & Hove Busmen's Summer Outing is reported on below by one of the men who attended this year, and the second, The Brighton, Hove & District Grocers' Association Summer Outing, will be taking place as we go to press.

Southdown and Brighton, Hove & District Bus Companies' Summer Outing

Wednesday, July 9th, was the occasion for a grand day out for the men at Ovingdean on holiday, West House and local St. Dunstaners. At 9.15 a.m. the buses started filling up.

After a run of an hour and a half, the whole party took the opportunity to stretch their legs and partake of liquid refreshment (whatever your taste, it was catered for).

Back then to the coaches and on until at about 12.45 we reached the outskirts of Midhurst, where all alighted and formed up behind the Patcham Boys' Band and, to the tune of "Sussex by the Sea" marched into Midhurst to the hall, where an excellent meal awaited us. When hunger and thirst were satisfied, away we went, this time to Cowdray Park, so kindly opened by Viscount Cowdray for the occasion. There, to a fine programme of dance music, by radiogram and the Patcham Boys' Band,

we indulged in the light fantastic. Then back to Midhurst for tea.

At five o'clock we were back in the hall where tea awaited us, with a wide range of home-made cakes—which disappeared with true St. Dunstan despatch.

We left Midhurst with cheers and counter cheers to our good friends and, after about a two hour journey, arrived at The Winterton Arms, Crockershill. Here again was lavish entertainment, with rolls and cheese, beer, minerals, cider and "spring onions" (the latter having been part of the tradition of the 32 years during which these Outings have been organised) and for over two hours we enjoyed hospitality, entertainment and an enjoyable sing-song until—at last—the call of "Time Gents., please," and then we had a telegram read to us from "Chief Clot" Jimmy Edwards, to "all his friendly Clots of St. Dunstan's," regretting his inability to be present, but promising his usual Christmas visit. The new landlord of "The Winterton Arms" wished us all good luck, and said he hoped to be able to make us enjoy our stay for the next 32 years, as had his predecessor in the past.

Finally, at about 11 p.m., about 100 tired but very happy St. Dunstaners wended their way to bed. Tired, yes, but very happy, and all with one thought, "Thanks once more to the Busmen—you've done it again." We must mention "Mark" for he has done the job for all these years, and was assuredly unanimously voted to carry on for the next!

J. M.

Grandfathers

A. Bennett, of Dover (a grandson now); S. P. Peacey, of New Southgate (two grandsons within a few months); A. E. Snook, Barnstable; G. A. Dawson, Bishop Auckland; J. H. Smith, Birmingham.

Honoured by Legion

On July 3rd, Arthur H. Finney, of Finchley, was presented with the British Legion Metropolitan Area Certificate of Merit by Mr. Bowers, Chairman of the North West County Area.

Mr. Finney has been associated with the Church End and Finchley branch of the Legion since 1948. He is a Founder Member and has held the office of Vice-President of the Branch for the last three and a half years. He served on the original Executive Committee of the Branch, and was Chairman of the Committee for two years.

What Braille Has Meant to Me

I often wonder, if there had been no St. Dunstan's, would I have taken the trouble to learn braille? Yet this form of reading has provided me with occupation and food for the mind, by bringing me the company of some of the great ones in history. What a thrill it has been to read about the ancient Greeks, who were the first to break with tradition, and with courage and curiosity probed the secrets of physical phenomena, thereby laying the foundation of science. Generations of scientists yet unborn will revere the memory of Archimedes for his discoveries, especially the principle of the lever, and the equilibrium of solids in fluids. How I have marvelled at the philosophy of Socrates, the wisdom of Plato, the analytical mind of Aristotle, and all those other great originators whose contributions to philosophy, art, literature and political science formed the backbone of a later European renaissance.

Through the medium of braille I have been enabled to revel in the glories of the Florentine Golden Age of Art, when the genius of Leonardo da Vinci was setting the world a problem it has not yet solved—what did he see in the mind of Mona Lisa when he painted that inscrutable smile? When that super master of brush, chisel and pen, Michaelangelo, was planning to crown the Basilica in Rome with a dome, he was charged by contemporary architects with defying and challenging the laws of gravitation, but there it stands, after five centuries, a monument to his courage, vision and perseverance. In those days Florence must have been one large studio.

In the above meagre cameos I have endeavoured to show a little of the interest and pleasure with which braille has enriched my life; but the greatest blessing it has conferred on me is the comfort it has brought me during those long, sleepless hours which still attend my nights, hours which might be spent in that bottomless pit of introspection, inveighing against fate and pondering the might-have-beens. Instead I take up my book and thank God for Louis Braille and Sir Arthur Pearson.

T. ROGERS.

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A photograph of Sid Doy's three fine lads—they are triplets—appeared in the *London Star* on June 19th. Tommy, Jimmy and Peter were three on June 20th.

The Rest of the News

Edwin Bullen, of West Australia, who was the author of the interesting article "Rain," which appeared last month, was one of the nineteen Australians who spent twelve months at Ovingdean in 1948. Recalling happy memories of that time he sends his good wishes to all his old friends at St. Dunstan's.

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G. B. Swanston, of Lockerbie, has a tandem for sale. We are waiting for details, but if any St. Dunstaner is interested will he let us know.

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"Grandpa" Beaufoy has sent us an interesting cutting from the *Dover Express*. At the Crown Inn, Eythorne, a few miles from Dover, two blind dogs, who have collected more than £200 for charities, are now collecting for St. Dunstan's. All the regulars know the dogs, and the stranger soon becomes acquainted with them. They rub their noses against the customer, then sit back and wait—listening for the sound of a coin to be thrown on the floor. Then they track it down, carry it to the collecting box behind the bar, and drop it into the slot. "Grandpa" is going over to be introduced.

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For the third year running, Douglas Calder was at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships at the invitation of the All-England Club.

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Congratulations to Rein Waas, who has been promoted to Sergeant (1st Class) with the Dutch Army. Rein, with Mrs. Waas, has been on a short holiday in this country and sends his good wishes to all his St. Dunstan's friends. He is now Chief Operator of the Military switchboard, with eleven men under him. When his Chief of Staff, Major Erkelens, Chief of the Military Telephony Service in Holland, was in London recently, he too visited St. Dunstan's to hear about Tommy Gaygan's switchboard.

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There was once a small boy in Cheltenham, Who, when he saw girls, started peltin' 'em;

But he found that the cane

Caused him far too much pain,

So he wore all his trousers with felt in 'em.

Over the initials "Q.O.K." this won first prize for A. V. Law, of Stockton, Worcestershire, in the Brisbane Competition.

“In Memory”

Private Samuel Brazier, 8th Yorks. and Lanes. Regt.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of S. Brazier, of Herne Bay, at the age of sixty-eight. He came to St. Dunstan's in December, 1917, and was trained in mat-making, and he carried on with this occupation until he was admitted to hospital on May 16th. It was hoped that he was making a good recovery, but he died suddenly on June 8th, leaving a widow and two grown-up children, to whom our deep sympathy is extended. A wreath of poppies from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral.

Rifleman William Canning, Rifle Brigade

With deep regret we record the death of W. Canning, of Wallasey, which occurred on May 11th. Although he served from 1915 until 1917, it was not until 1943 that he came to St. Dunstan's, having been blinded as a result of his service in the East. He was already a very sick man and was never able to take up serious training. He bore great suffering very bravely for a number of years.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral. Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family, and, in particular, to Mrs. Mason. Mrs. Canning herself has been ill for a long time.

Gunner Thomas Donohue, Royal Garrison Artillery

With deep regret we record the death of T. Donohue, of Windsor, at the age of seventy. Discharged from the Army in March, 1919, he was admitted to our benefits only as recently as September, 1951, but his poor health then prevented him undertaking any training. A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the flowers at the funeral. Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow.

J. J. LeBlanc, Victoria, Australia

T. P. Drummond, Adelaide, South Australia

J. Iwers, Queensland, Australia

Through Mr. McConnell and Mr. Archer, we have heard with deep regret of the deaths of three Australian St. Dunstaners.

J. J. LeBlanc served with the 5th Battalion A.I.F. He did not come to St. Dunstan's, but was admitted to our benefits in January, 1936. He died on April 28th of this year, leaving a widow and family, to whom our sincere sympathy is offered.

The death of T. P. Drummond occurred nearly twelve months ago, but we have only recently been notified. He served with the Royal Naval Division and trained as a masseur, but went to Australia in 1920 with his sister. He became a diver, a fact which brought him considerable fame and praise.

J. Iwers was a new war St. Dunstaner, who did not train in this country, but with whom we kept in touch through the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association. He was a single man.

Births

CHADWICK.—On June 20th, to the wife of C. Chadwick, of Goosnargh, near Preston, a daughter—Lilian.

BAKER.—On June 30th, to the wife of D. Baker, of Rhyl, a son—Peter Christian.

FENSOME.—On July 11th, to the wife of S. Fensome, of Smethwick, a son.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

DAVIES.—To H. A. Davies, of Elworth, Sandbach, who has suffered the loss of his sister.

JENKINS.—To E. J. Jenkins, of Porth, whose wife has died after much suffering.

NOBLE.—To R. Noble, of Middlesbrough, whose elder brother has died very suddenly.

PURCELL.—To J. B. Purcell, of Urmston, Manchester, whose wife passed away on July 8th after great suffering.

WAGNER.—To S. Wagner, of South Africa, now in training at Ovingdean, whose mother has recently died.

WATERS.—To A. S. Waters, of Sevenoaks, in the loss of his mother.

St. Dunstaners will hear with deep regret that Mr. Louis Barder, husband of Mrs. Barder, of Hove, died very suddenly last month. Mrs. Barder has given very generous help both at Ovingdean and at West House, and her husband was also known to a number of St. Dunstaners.

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Mrs. Canning and family sincerely thank all staff of St. Dunstan's for their great kindness and help during Mr. Canning's long illness, and for the very many kindnesses and letters of sympathy at the time of his death.

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

LADY Fraser and I stayed the night at the Longmynd Hotel at Church Stretton during August. This revived memories and caused acute nostalgia.

Lady Fraser remembered the first night she and Mr. Askew stayed there in the month of June in 1940, when they were inspecting the place to see if we would requisition it; you can imagine they were not very welcome guests.

I remembered a night a few weeks later when I slept there for the first time after it had become St. Dunstan's. We were glad to get away to such a quiet spot after many nights of bombing in London, but I had no sooner got into bed when I heard the familiar drone of a German 'plane, its engines throbbing. They have followed us here from Brighton, I thought, but though we heard them many times, they never dropped a bomb on the town, and only one or two, I think, within ten or twenty miles.

The Longmynd has gone back to its original rôle as a hotel; the carpentry and other workshops have reverted to their use as garages. The lawn just beside the Entrance Gate, where we built temporary huts—the "Longmynd Huts"—has been cleared but is still very rough. Belmont, the girls' house, is now a boarding house, but the railings which we had put up on the steep stairs to prevent the girls slipping are still there. Tiger Hall is a block of flats, Denehurst a hotel, and Brockhurst a Roman Catholic Students' College. The main St. Dunstan's Centre which we built in the middle of the village is a County School and we recalled many experiences, grave and gay, as we passed by and looked at the Commandant's and Matron's offices, the music and dance hall, etc.

The shops seemed much the same and we noted the names of the Orange Tree Cafe, Mr. Boulton's, Mr. Harry Hampson's, Headley's, and many others. The "King's Head" is still going strong, but the "Plough" is a Youth Hostel, and Mr. and Mrs. Trebble now have a pub in Shrewsbury.

Squadron Leader and Mrs. Bartlett, who still live at Church Stretton, had dinner with us and told us all the gossip of the village and reminded us of many other old friends such as Miss Zillah Jones, the Misses Jones and their "Chelmick" teas, and Sergeant Lewis and P.C. Arkinstall, who are still on the beat.

£5,000 for Talking Book Research

Lord Nuffield has given me a further £5,000 for Talking Book Research. This follows his generous gift of £10,000 in 1946. The Talking Book, which is conducted by the National Institute for the Blind in association with St. Dunstan's, has hitherto been based on records

made on discs of the gramophone type. Experiments have been conducted for some time to ascertain whether magnetic tape or wire or films could be more advantageously used for records. Research of the Committee has shown that a small box or cassette, not very much bigger than a large volume can contain enough magnetic tape to read aloud for ten or twelve hours. Out of Lord Nuffield's new gift, it is proposed to establish a small experimental library of a few tape recorded books which will be circulated to a few blind people in their homes during the next year to ascertain how the system works in practice.

Mr. Alex. Mackay

Mr. Alex. Mackay has tendered his resignation as Welfare Superintendent on personal grounds, and will be leaving us at the end of the month.

I well remember talking to him when he came back from his war service to join us as Welfare Superintendent in 1946. He brought with him a wide administrative and executive experience, and had a thoughtful mind, and these gifts, with the personal knowledge of our St. Dunstaners which he has acquired over the years, have enabled him to render a very valuable service which I know my St. Dunstan's friends will always appreciate as I do. I have often presided at Reunions where Mr. Mackay has been in charge and have witnessed the charming and competent manner in which he conducts the proceedings and have shared the goodwill that has been felt for him by those present.

We are all grateful to Mr. Mackay for his help and understanding, and he takes with him our very best wishes for the future.

IAN FRASER.

London Reunion and Dance

The London Reunion and Dance will be held on Wednesday, November 26th, 1952, at the Seymour Hall, Seymour Place, London, W.1, from 7.30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

One ticket will admit a St. Dunstaner and one escort (we regret that children under 16 cannot be included), and application for tickets should be addressed to Mr. Mackay at Headquarters as soon as possible, and in any case, not later than Monday, November 10th.

This function is primarily for St. Dunstaners living in the London area and it is not possible to arrange accommodation for those who cannot return to their homes the same night.

To Talking Book Users

St. Dunstaners using Talking Book machines are asked to co-operate with the Technical Engineer of the Talking Book Library by returning their used pick-up heads immediately upon the receipt of replacements despatched to them by the Talking Book Department. The stock position does not permit the retention of the used head after the replacement has been received by the reader, and if the present service is to be maintained, it is essential that all readers should co-operate by returning the used pick-up heads promptly, so that these may be serviced and put back into circulation quickly.

S. JONES, Men's Supplies.

Ovingdean Telephones

Increasing numbers of telephone calls for men on holiday are being received at Ovingdean. During business hours when such calls are made through the Ovingdean switchboard (Rottingdean 2266) and there is a delay in finding the St. Dunstaner asked for, inconvenience and delays arise with other calls. There are two Public Call Boxes at Ovingdean which are conveniently sited, for the receipt of incoming private calls. The telephone numbers of these are

Rottingdean 297711 and
Rottingdean 236211

Calls can be received night and day through these two call boxes with little delay, and St. Dunstaners are asked to make a note of the telephone numbers and to inform their friends and relations to use these numbers when telephoning them at the Home. These call-box numbers will appear in the next issue of the Brighton Area Telephone Directory.

West House Telephone

At West House there is a Public Call Box installed also and the number is

Brighton 210901

This number should be used for personal calls to men in residence at West House. St. Dunstaners should tell their friends likely to make long distance calls to Brighton, to use the Personal Call System, whereby if the person called is not available only 6d. is payable.

London Club Notes

Bridge

All Bridge players are reminded that St. Dunstan's Bridge Congress will be held at Brighton during the week-end of November 15th. Please send in your name as soon as possible if you are interested.

H. GOVER

Indoor Section

It has been suggested that an evening be taken for the purpose of playing off the Finals matches in the Sir Arthur Pearson Competition. That includes the Darts (T.B. and S.S.), the Dominoes and the Cribbage Competitions. The date will be announced later.

We are also putting on a Dance shortly, at which the prizes for the Sir Arthur Pearson competition for fox-trot and waltz will be competed for. An announcement of the date and place will be made in the Club. In view of the good time we had at the dance we held last March, we hope for the support of St. Dunstaners. Turn up in goodly numbers and have a go. Even if you don't win the competition, you will have a good time.

Will St. Dunstaners and their escorts please watch the notice board in the Hall for further announcements. Mr. Willis will also broadcast in the Club when arrangements have been fixed up.

It may be queried why various events in which the Section participates have not previously been published in the "REVIEW." The reason is that copy for the "REVIEW" has to be sent in early in the month and it often happens that arrangements for social evenings, etc., are made after the "REVIEW" has gone to press.

If you are interested, come along to the Club and hear for yourselves what is going on.

CHAS. J. WALKER.

Outdoor Section

On July 12th, an Athletic Meeting was held at Ipswich in aid of St. Dunstan's. A team of the Walking Section was invited to compete in a 2 mile handicap match against a team of walkers from the Ipswich Harriers. The escorts of the St. Dunstaners were members of the Metropolitan Police Walking Club, to whom we were most grateful for the time and attention given to us all. The race was won by Les. Dennis, off 880 yards, with Charlie Williamson second and Bill Miller third, and once again St. Dunstan's walkers were success-

ful in winning the match. Each St. Dunstaner and his escort was presented with a cup. The team was afterwards entertained by the organisers to a really grand meal. A vote of thanks to the organisers concluded a day which was enjoyed by all.

C. J. S.

* * *

The good wishes of his friends in the Walking Section, and of St. Dunstaners everywhere will go with Charlie Williamson on September 13th, when he takes part in a Walk to Brighton, organised by the Surrey Walking Club, of which he is a member. There will be 150 starters.

Charles, who will be the only walker who is not sighted, hopes to beat the 27 year old record of St. Dunstaner Jock Ingram, who did the distance in 9 hrs. 57 mins. 21 secs. By a coincidence, he will have as his escort Maurice Horton, the son of E. C. Horton, that famous long distance walker, who accompanied Jock Ingram in 1925.

The Brighton Walk will be Charles' fourth long distance walk this year. He has already covered Poole to Wareham (20 miles—3 hrs. 19 mins. 16 secs.), Dover to Canterbury (28 miles—4 hrs. 57 mins. 51 secs.) and Hastings to Brighton (38 miles—7 hrs. 4 mins.) in that order.

Charles has walked with St. Dunstan's Club since it was formed again after the war and has always been in the first three. *STOP PRESS.* He's there! Details next month.

Swimming. Make a note of our Gala to be held at the Polytechnic, Regent Street, on Saturday, October 4th, at 2 p.m.

Mr. Bob Willis will undertake the work previously done by Mr. Jack Dawkins in connection with outdoor sporting events. Mr. Dawkins joined the staff of St. Dunstan's in 1937 and served with his old regiment during World War II, returning to St. Dunstan's in late 1945. Mr. Dawkins and his family have now gone to the U.S.A. to join their daughter there, and all St. Dunstaners will wish him the best of luck in his new life in the New World.

Correction

In the July printed "REVIEW" (not the braille edition), Frank Gresson's telephone number was wrongly given. This should be Thornton Heath 5871, not 6871. Frank's band have a few vacant bookings.

Taxi Outing

It was a perfect summer's morning when on Friday, August 22nd, a number of St. Dunstaners and their escorts set out for Worthing by taxi. Our first stop was at Holmwood (the British Legion Hall). Here we were met by Mrs. Spurway, who knew so many who were there. Refreshments were provided which we all enjoyed very much. We then continued our journey to Worthing where a wonderful lunch awaited us. After a word of welcome from Worthing's ex-Mayor, we went our various ways to enjoy a lovely afternoon, meeting again at 5.30 for high tea.

Soon after six o'clock we started for home, again stopping at Holmwood, where we were entertained with an impromptu concert and more refreshments.

All this was made possible through the kindness and generosity of the West London Taxi Trades Benevolent Association.

A warm vote of thanks was given by a St. Dunstaner and also by a St. Dunstaner's wife, and here I would say many, many thanks again for everything, and to the drivers a very big thank-you for their kindness and help given to us all.

God bless them all for their kind thought for those less fortunate. B.W.H.

St. Dunstan's Stock Breeder

J. T. Scrymgeour, of Queensland, is continuing his wonderful record as a successful stock breeder and exhibitor. From the Australian ex-Servicemen's magazine, "Reveille," we learn that at the recent Royal Show at Sydney, he had nine entries in one division, and took eighteen prizes. One of his exhibits, Netherby Lord Bine, was sold at auction for 3,000 guineas, and his average return, from the sale of six stud Poll Shorthorns, was 1,020 guineas—the best of the show.

Our St. Dunstaner looks after all his own stock of eighty studs, tending it himself, as well as carrying out many other jobs on his 400 acre property. In addition, he does all the secretarial work, typing his own letters. He is an expert on poultry raising.

"Reveille" concludes: "In social company Mr. Scrymgeour is a good mixer and lively conversationalist, but nothing gives him greater pleasure than to join with a band of Diggers in happy reunion."

Insurance Contributions

As you probably know, insurance contributions under the National Insurance Act (1946) will be increased from 6th October. The new rates are as follows: Class I (Employed).

The present rate is 9s. 5d. per week and this will be increased to 10s. 9d. per week (5s. 9d. from the insured person and 5s. from the employer).

Class II (Self-employed).

The present rate is 6s. 6d. per week and this becomes 7s. 5d.

Class III (Non-employed).

The present rate is 5s. per week and this becomes 5s. 7d.

St. Dunstan's has been assisting all its insured men by paying 2s. 6d. per week. In view of this present increase it has been agreed that St. Dunstan's will now pay 2s. 10d. per week.

At present the Ministry of Pensions is deducting 4s. per week from the pension of all our men in Class II (Self-employed) and this will now be raised to 4s. 7d.

In the case of Class III (Non-employed) the present deduction by the Ministry of 2s. 6d. per week will be raised to 2s. 9d.

Class I (Employed) contributors will continue to receive two payments each year from St. Dunstan's, based on the new rate of 2s. 10d. per week.

Canadian Letter

Writing to Sir Ian from his home in Victoria, B.C., Harris Turner said:

"It is not often nowadays that I think of the distant days when I infested St. Dunstan's, but last week a Scottish lady, a distant cousin to my wife, visited us for a day or two. She came from Hawick. I told her I knew a St. Dunstaner from Hawick. "Ay," she said, "that would be Jock Murray. I know him fine." Then for half an hour or so, I cast back to the time I was a resident of the College in company with Murray, Howell, Taplin, Wilding, Price and Macdougall. It was a pleasant roomfull and I had not brought them to mind for years. We were as happy as newly-elected Members of Parliament, and although Macdougall's temper occasionally threatened to break up the Empire as the interests of Cheshire, Hawick and Canada seemed to clash, it was, by and large, an agreeable community and one upon which I now look back with nothing but pleasant memories."

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

An incident occurred not long ago which causes me to smile and feel really good whenever I am in the vicinity of Western Road, Brighton.

One morning I had called at the Labour Exchange in Montpelier Road. I was accompanied by my dog, Buddy. After completing my business, I walked down Montpelier Road and when I reached the kerb of Western Road, bumped into someone. I apologised and said, "Would you mind taking me across the road?" A grumpy voice replied, "Can't you see *this*, you fool?" I said, "What is 'this'?" and he answered, "A white stick." Before I could reply, someone said with a rather nasal accent, "Say, I'll take you across." It was a lady, so I was prevented from making a suitable reply to the gent of the White Stick. She took my arm, waited awhile for quiet, then said, "Now," and off we sailed across Western Road, Buddy biting my left foot all the way across (just one of his playful habits of trying to induce me to step on the gas). Reaching the other side, my companion said, "Now where do you want to go?" Turning to my right I said, "I am all right now, thank you," but my companion continued to lead me along and a conversation ensued. It transpired that she was an old Brightonian who had emigrated to Canada when she married, and returned every year for a holiday. I, of course, wanted a bus stop but had not had the opportunity of saying so, and we had walked past three or four. I remembered an appointment and asked my companion to put me at a stop where I could get a 15B bus. She bumped into someone and asked to be taken to the stop. Yes. *She was blind.*

What I shall remember most is the brightness of her conversation. I believe she would not have told me of her condition had I not wanted that bus.

Yours sincerely,

ALAN NICHOLS.

Portslade.

DEAR EDITOR,

In the lounge at Ovingdean one morning not so long ago, one of our deaf-blind St. Dunstaners, wishing to make an enquiry about mealtimes, turned to the person sitting next to him, attracted his attention and explained that he was deaf. The man with no hearing demonstrated on his

neighbour's hand how to say "yes" and "no," then offering the palm of his hand, he asked if breakfast was still served at the same time as usual. At least, he started to put this question but did not finish it, for the man next to him almost thrust his hand away and sprang hurriedly from his seat. When I first heard about this incident I was filled with anger. It seemed incredible that anyone could be so heartless. Later I began to think about it more calmly and I realised that there was something much more profound at the roots of such apparently cruel behaviour.

Is it that we are in some obscure way nervous of our friends who can neither see nor hear? Or are we afraid that we should find the manual alphabet too difficult to learn? Maybe we are concerned about being able to interest a deaf-blind man in conversation? I felt all these things before I got to know Wally Thomas, and although they were very real worries at one time, now they seem almost ridiculous. In the first place I soon discovered that lack of sight and hearing had not altered Wally as a person at all. Secondly, the alphabet was shown to me only twice; after that it was only a matter of gradually picking up speed. Incidentally, the deaf-blind chaps themselves are not at all concerned about speed. Thirdly, the question of knowing what to talk about just does not arise. They are normal, intelligent people, and talk comes just as easily to them as it does to us.

The above points I have raised for the benefit of those St. Dunstaners who feel that they would like to meet some of our deaf-blind friends but are troubled by the doubts I have mentioned. By offering them conversation, we extend to them the feeling of good fellowship which is prevalent throughout St. Dunstan's.

Yours sincerely,

Liverpool.

G. W. ELLIS.

(We have recently obtained some leaflets describing the manual alphabet for the deaf-blind. If any St. Dunstaner would like a copy, the Editor will be delighted to send him one.)

DEAR EDITOR,

Regarding machines to enable people to talk to the deaf-blind, the signalling system on my model railway gave me an idea in 1929 for a machine that would enable a person to read the newspaper to six deaf-

blind people at once *who understood braille*. It was all made up with Meccano and not actually tested until the following summer, when the late G. J. Wheeler was living with me. Sir Ian Fraser later sent us a gadget from the N.I.B. museum enabling one person to talk to only one deaf-blind person. After further correspondence and discussions, it was first pointed out that we were not then all at West House together, and if we were, the machine would be no use to eleven men either for reading the paper or discussions; again it would tend to retard the learning of the manual and that would in turn greatly put into jeopardy our chances of getting escorts for walks, etc. A machine was no use either when out walking, shopping, etc.

When there is no time to learn the manual, and I have taught it in three minutes in cases of emergency, the block letter method is far and away the best.

Yours sincerely,

Southwick.

G. FALLOWFIELD.

Bowls

DEAR EDITOR,

I was quite surprised to read last month under "bowls," that the game had not been taken up widely in Great Britain by the blind. May I take this opportunity to point out that a very flourishing Bowling Club exists in Scotland for blind ex-Service men. It is the Linburn Bowling Club, formed by members of the Scottish National Institute for the War Blind, and such is the keenness of its members that six rinks are able to compete against local teams from Edinburgh and district.

Up to a little time ago, the players were using an improvised green, which was part of the lawn in front of the manor house. However, last year it was decided to prepare a proper, well-turfed and drained green, a green that would be as good if not better, than the greens of Linburn's opponents. So Saturday, 9th August, saw the opening of this new green by William Jardine, Esq., President of the Scottish Bowling Association.

Although the bowling season is far advanced, the Linburn Bowlers are hoping to add fresh laurels to their successes of previous years.

Perhaps at some future date a team of bowlers from St. Dunstan's may compete against their Scottish counterpart.

Yours faithfully,

Perth.

ROY DAVID.

The Lights Go On and Off at Blackpool

Have you been to Scorton—or to the "Boot and Shoe,"?

Or have you been on Windermere—the lake of deepest blue?

Perhaps you crossed the Irish Sea to Douglas, Isle of Man,

To where you sail from Fleetwood Pier (to where you get by tram).

Did you go to Squire's Gate Camp—have eggs and chips for tea?

And join the gay Bank Holiday crowds—go out upon the spree?

Perhaps you climbed the Blackpool Tower—but not on Shanks's ponies,

You climbed the heights—you went by lift—with your St. Dunstan's cronies.

Maybe enjoyed the Rainbow show, that eve was very hot.

At half-time some came out to breathe, so missed the best of the lot.

Perhaps to Felman's you did go—or even to the "Rep."

Both shows are very good you know, they're full of fun and pep.

"The Blue Lamp" at Theatre Grand, to Haydock Park horse races,

The Queen's Hotel for dinner/dance, or any other places?

If none of these has been your joy for any special reason,

You have not been to nor' nor' west during the Blackpool Season.

The final trip to end the term of fun and celebrations,

Was round the town in comfy coach to see Illuminations.

The escorts had the gift of speech, they could describe the sights,

So we enjoyed the evening run when Blackpool switched on lights.

The final show—at Opera House—e'en though it was a Sunday,

Was much enjoyed by holiday folk, ere we left on the Monday.

A quiet drink—reminiscences—joys we shall remember,

And now the Blackpool Home is still—'tis closed for all September.

Personal

Thirty miles from London. St. Dunstaner (widower) and daughter require Working House-keeper. Comfortable home. Letters should be sent to the Editor marked "Housekeeper."

From All Quarters

George Dennis, of Portsmouth, has just retired after over thirty three years' service as a Home Teacher. He has served on many committees connected with blind welfare. At the Retirement Ceremony presentations were made to him on behalf of the Welfare Services Committee, and the Portsmouth Voluntary Association for the Blind, and many tributes were paid to him for his fine record of service.

★ ★ ★

Major D. Ronald Bridges, who is Welfare Officer in Malaya and Secretary of the Malayan Association for the Blind, is doing a magnificent job in this difficult and dangerous field. A recent appeal leaflet for the Association is admirably produced. Congratulations and good wishes to its author.

★ ★ ★

J. G. Straughton, of Workington, has been complimented and received the Long Service Award from the United Steel Companies, Ltd., having completed forty years' service with the company.

★ ★ ★

Gerry Brereton, late of Manchester, and now of London, was in the programme of "In Town To-night" on August 23rd. Gerry is already well known on the air for his B.B.C. "Showtime" broadcasts.

★ ★ ★

Ernest Russell, of Leeds, who is a prominent member of the British Legion, opened a Legion Gala the other day, and Mrs. Russell was chosen to crown the Gala Queen and to speak to the large audience.

★ ★ ★

W. A. Biggs, of Leicester, was knocked down on a zebra crossing while he was staying at the Blackpool Home. At the magistrate's court later, when the driver of the car was charged with driving without reasonable consideration, the Clerk of the Court congratulated our St. Dunstaner on the way he had given his evidence. "This witness," he said, "ought to give lessons to other witnesses in this court. I have never heard it given so well in a running down case."

★ ★ ★

F. Cooley, of Langley, Bucks., won first prize in the over sixties class for some delicate crochet work in the recent Carnival Week celebrations.

J. G. ("Tim") Healy, of Blackpool, has been appointed chairman of the Blackpool Branch of the National League of the Blind. Tim tells us that when he was on a visit to Jack Boothman at Morecambe recently, he was pleasantly surprised to find that one of the principal cinemas, where blind people are admitted free, also supplies a brailled summary of the script. It is handed back on leaving so that it can accompany the film to its next place of showing. Other cinemas, please copy!

★ ★ ★

T. Batt, of Oakhill, won ten prizes with twelve entries at Oakhill British Legion Flower Show—three firsts, three seconds, and four thirds.

★ ★ ★

D. McCarthy, of Fordingbridge, won first prize for gooseberries in the "Open and Cottages Class" at a local show.

★ ★ ★

At 84, W. Sullivan, of Cork, is well and quietly enjoying life. Two recent additions bring his total of great-grandchildren to ten.

★ ★ ★

A most interesting letter has reached us from Roy French, of Transvaal, South Africa. Roy is a St. Dunstaner who is fortunate to possess useful guiding vision and he went to South Africa immediately on leaving the Physiotherapy School. After only sixteen months' service with Krugersdorp Hospital, he has been appointed Senior Physiotherapist there. In order to qualify, he had to pass a language test in Afrikaans. He and Mrs. French have settled down most happily in their new life.

★ ★ ★

Tribute has been paid everywhere to the part played by Lieut. Col. M. P. Ansell, C.B.E., D.S.O., in Britain's horse-jumping triumph in the Olympic Games at Helsinki.

★ ★ ★

From the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, South Africa:

"A small child who was seen gazing longingly at the Flaming Torches decorating our stand enquired of her mother, 'Mummy, where do the blind men make their ice-cream?'"

Alderman

F. W. E. L'Estrange Fawcett, of Stowmarket, has been raised to the Aldermanic Bench of the Suffolk County Council. Mr. Fawcett has been a member of the Local Council for many years.

With the Fleet Air Arm

I have just returned from my first visit to H.M.S. Daedalus, the Fleet Air Arm Station at Lee-on-Solent. St. Dunstaners who have visited this Naval Station will understand and will agree with me when I say that any St. Dunstaner who has not tasted the genial generosity of the personnel of H.M.S. Daedalus has missed the certainty of a week of enjoyment second to none.

From the moment we entered the camp good cheer and goodwill to St. Dunstaners became the order of the day. Collectively and individually, the personnel of H.M.S. Daedalus played their part in the entertainment and happiness of us all.

In Anson block, the quarters invaded by St. Dunstan's for the week, a most comfortable lounge had been prepared by the Fleet Air Arm. Here an atmosphere of sociability and relaxation prevailed and St. Dunstaners could loll about drinking endless cups of tea, play dominoes with other St. Dunstaners, Wrens or Sailors, have a newspaper read or just be generally lazy.

For the more energetic types, arrangements could easily be made with the Wrens and Sailors for a brisk walk, a tandem ride or a swim in the Solent.

Of the organised outings too much cannot be said. Whether it was a visit to the Naval Dock Yard or a trip in an Air Sea Rescue Launch to visit Southampton and bump alongside the vast new American liner, the "United States," to hear a blast of welcome from her siren, and then speed across to the Isle of Wight for an hour ashore at Cowes. Or whether it was a trip of inspection round the Air Station with the chance of a flight in an aircraft, all these outings made a marvellous change.

Almost every night of our stay we were invited to a different mess or canteen for an evening's entertainment. The hospitality shown at these functions was such that it could hardly be bettered, especially if it was measured by the complaints of indigestion and hangovers that were heard and felt the following morning.

Besides spending a most enjoyable and entertaining week, the main benefit I felt was the absolute change of environment provided by H.M.S. Daedalus and the uplift I got from the sincere appreciation and affection shown by everyone towards us. We all particularly enjoyed having Matron Pain in camp this year for the week.

Our appreciation to Mrs. Spurway for her work as liaison officer. To H.M.S. Daedalus I would like to say "God Bless," and thank you all for providing a bright and breezy holiday, a holiday with a difference, in fact a holiday money could not buy.

WALLY LETHBRIDGE.

A Wren's Token of Thanks

*The men of St. Dunstan's brought joy to our camp,
Tho' the winds oft blew cold and the weather
was damp,*

*They never stopped laughing and they always were
gay,*

*And now I wish to thank them for being that
way.*

*They lifted my miseries, chased away all my gloom,
Even when I was busy with dustpan and broom.*

*They had smiling faces when knocking back beer,
And telling the Wrens of the families held dear.*

*The way they played tricks I shall never forget,
Don't worry . . . I'll get my own back on them
yet.*

*I was given a pencil and then asked so nicely
To write the address on a postcard to wife . . .*

*I was so glad to help and started to write
With a rubber pencil, imagine my plight!*

*I returned the trick pencil, with a grin to the
bloke*

*And told him just what I thought of his joke.
But when we had gathered some others around*

*He tried it again and there wasn't a sound,
Until suddenly the poor sucker realised what was*

wrong
*And great roars of laughter burst from the
throng.*

*They're the sort of tricks you had better look out
for,*

*Rubber dolls and trick pencils, and yet many
more.*

*But I hope the men of St. D's liked their stay.
If I'm around next year, then it's better that*

they

*Should be on the look-out, my revenge will be sweet,
They had better watch out should we happen to*

meet,

*For I'll be a young devil and play tricks galore
Until they've declared they can't stand any more,*

*Then they'll probably start on their tricks once
again*

*And I'll be renamed the dozey young Wren.
But I've enjoyed their stay and meeting everyone,*

*And I hope they enjoyed our ideas of fun.
So look after them for me, keep away from the*

*beer,
Until their next visit to DAEDALUS next
year.*

FRANCES.

The Art of Smoking

The trouble started when my wife found tiny holes in my suit. Besides, it was expensive smoking cigarettes, so what better than to start smoking a pipe! Enquiries revealed that a couple of ounces of baccy lasted a whole week; financially it sounded more economical. What I wasn't told was that you have to be a craftsman to master a pipe. After equipping myself with baccy, pouch, smoker's companion set, and pipe cleaners, my match box was always empty and I have to dip into the one on the mantelpiece kept for lighting the fire. As I was quick to see that a good stock of matches was essential, I went for Swans and after much puffing and an occasional scorching of one or more fingers, I realised that I must be generating smoke.

Trial and Error

Seated beside an ash-tray containing a nice little pile of burnt matches, I tasted the joy of success, or was it only success? My tongue seemed to be burning and eventually, after abandoning leaf tobacco I was specially advised to try flake—"never used anything else, all the years I've been smoking." Still persevering, by and by I noted that in spite of repeated sucks (as distinct from the conventional puffs) my pipe was blocked. With a truly professional air, out came the cleaner and companion set. When reassembled, the through-draught was better than that in any Tube Station.

Disaster

I began to really feel that I looked a solid and contented father with my pipe at full fury, but a sizzling noise in the bowl puzzled me until I was informed by professionals that it was only saliva and that I was a "wet smoker." The thing to do, they said, is to have about six pipes on the go to rest one and dry it, while the others did service. That was all very well, but six pipes of briar come hard on the Exchequer. Still determined, I bought a packet of ten just to "rest" my pipe. I was still determined when I took up my pipe again, but when, with the pipe gripped in my teeth, I tried to talk intelligibly, the glowing pipe shot out of my teeth and emptied itself partly on me and partly on the arm-chair cushion.

How did Drake manage to play bowls and smoke a pipe? R. A. FULLARD.

West Country Notes

It is seldom that the West Country gets honourable mention in the REVIEW. You see, we are so scattered. We have no clubs or meeting place, but one thing we do have is our annual camp in Wiltshire. This year, on July 8th, twenty St. Dunstaners from the West of England and South Wales, with Micky Costello, George Leadbetter and George Stanley from further afield, met once again in the old huts at Westbury. Miss Oliphant was again the energetic governor-general. Our Miss Arning, of Stretton days, was again minister of the interior and looked after our inner man as only she knows how. We had a full programme, visits being paid to the theatre at Bath, races at Salisbury and Bath, to Mrs. Robertson Glasgow, Lady Lacey, and the Duke and Duchess of Somerset. I tell you, lads, when the Westbury Camp gets cracking we mix only in the best society.

Entertainment was provided by the Infantry Training School, the Buffs, and the Women's Section of the British Legion. A visit to Avesbury, reputed to be much older than Stonehenge, called forth the remark from one bright 'erb, "Let ye who are without sin cast the first stone." Everyone voted it the best camp ever. Our cup was full when unexpectedly we heard a very familiar voice from the dining hall saying the well-remembered grace, "God bless our land, our Queen, and food, and give us thankful hearts." Yes, you've guessed. It was that beloved voice of Matron Pain. Mr. Ottaway, too, was there and we were reet glad to welcome him again. Another well-loved friend, Mrs. Carter, now Mrs. Bryant, came along too, and acted as bookie's runner to five of us at Bath races.

In fact a good time was had by all and our thanks must go out to those very willing and splendid friends of ours who come together year after year to give us such a wonderful time, with our special thanks to a local lady, Mrs. Luce, who works so hard to arrange all the transport, and to Nurse Moody, who tends our digestive organs and fat heads. Now for our camp anthem, to be sung to the tune of Christopher Robin.*

GEN.

*(Sorry, Gen, no room after all, but copies available on application to—Ed.)

Liverpool Club Notes

Many people will remember Saturday, 23rd August, as the day which afforded us the novelty of continuous sunshine that month, but we of the Club have special cause to think of it as the day of our Annual Outing to Llandudno.

A happy note was struck at once by the welcome fact that our party included Mrs. Formstone. Violet and her cheery voice had been missed far too long by each and every one of the Club members. Another outstanding feature was the absence of our resident vocalist, Mr. Joe "Caruso" Daly, and we all felt that the inevitable choral efforts of a coach trip would suffer by his absence. However, the success of our excursion was assured right from the start.

There was an excellent mid-day meal awaiting us at our destination, and when we eventually left the restaurant to disperse for the afternoon, we did so with the conviction that another tasty meal would be served to us at 5 o'clock. At about 6 p.m. we all wiped the ice cream from our lips and climbed back into the coach to start the trip back home. Very soon we were pulling in at Connah's Quay for whatever form of refreshment each of us sought. A very noisy, but nevertheless enjoyable hour or so was spent here, and during the proceedings we were privileged to hear a ballad by our Mr. T. Brougham, who emulated the above mentioned J. Daly by rendering something that was more or less in the tune of Galway Bay. All too quickly the time came to leave this Welsh outpost and it was noticeable at once how everyone was seized with a desire to sing. This joyous spirit was maintained throughout the rest of the journey to Liverpool, and when we finally arrived at our original starting place, everyone agreed they had had a wonderful day. Our Vice Chairman was overheard to say that we should have a similar outing every Saturday. Rather a wistful statement perhaps, but an indication of the general atmosphere of enthusiasm in the Club. We are a happy group, but there is always room for more members, and in closing I will extend an invitation to all non-members who live in the Liverpool area to come along sometime and join us. We meet on 11th October and every fortnight from then onwards.

FRISBY.

Young St. Dunstaners

Kenneth Fawcett, Bournemouth, has qualified as a doctor and is now M.B., CH.B. He previously obtained his B.Sc. at London University. The hospital where he has taken up his first appointment is the hospital where his father took his first post as masseur, and it is also the hospital where Kenneth was born 29 years ago.

John Anthony Mudge has gained his B.A. at Oxford University. He took his Inter. B.A. when he was 17, with entry to the University, but this had to be postponed until he had completed his military service.

Sybil Floyd, Teignmouth, has obtained a position on the teaching staff of Bedfordshire County Council.

"11-year-old Sydney Wass (Brighton) has won a medal, a certificate and a pat on the shoulder from his headmaster for being a healthy boy who doesn't play truant," said the local paper. Sydney has completed four years at his school with 100% attendance.

Valerie Shread, King's Lynn, has passed the Technical College examination.

Elaine Martin, Thornton Heath, has become a Fellow of the Greek Dancing Society.

Maureen Boyce, Belfast, has secured her Social Science degree.

Pamela Hodgman, Croydon, has passed the Advance Level Examination of the General Certificate of Education.

Raymond Burgin has been given a commission and is now a Pilot Officer in Fighter Control.

Marriages

Iris Farmery, on August 9th.

Jack Davies, Llandyssul, on July 19th to Miss Elsie James.

On July 25th, Dominic Sheridan, Wishaw, to Miss Agnes Dunn.

Peter C. Fearn, East Kirby, to Miss M. Barnes, and Lawrence Fearn to Miss E. Kröger, of Oldenburg, Germany.

On August 2nd, James Robinson, Co. Tyrone, to Miss Gertrude E. Gray.

On July 26th, the youngest son of C. T. Kirk, Lancing.

Hints to Half-Wits dealing with Dims

1. Impress on your Dim that he is, at all times, a congenital lunatic. He will be delighted to know that apart from his other disabilities, he has something else to add to the gaiety of nations.
 2. Never, in any circumstances, put his personal things back to the same place where he carefully put them. This will give him something to do in trying to find them again, and will also provide exercise for his mind in making up descriptions of you and your thoughtfulness.
 3. When he is listening to his Talking Book or a wireless programme, wait until it gets to a most interesting part and then say brightly, "What are you reading?" or "What did they say then?" This will prevent him getting into a groove and as decent wireless programmes are never repeated, and he will have lost the thread, it will give him many happy hours trying to work out what would have happened if you had not interrupted.
 4. If possible get three or four females all talking at the pitch of their voices on different subjects at the same time. In the middle of this sparkling conversation ask him a question. He, of course, will not have a clue who you are talking to and then you can say, "I'm talking to *you*, why don't you answer me?" He will appreciate you singling him out of all these people, particularly as he will not have heard the question.
 5. When he asks you to do something for him, go and stand beside him but *do not speak*. He, being a gentleman, will not speak but will await your pleasure. After about twenty minutes of this communal Yogi, say, "I am waiting to do what you asked." This simple act will lead to some very interesting conversations between you both.
 6. When talking to him, speak as low as possible, illustrating your remarks with gesticulations. He will not see these and will not have heard a word, but you will be able to tell him that you *showed* him what you were saying.
 7. Remember the St. Dunstan's motto, "Whatever the poor boy wants, that he must have."
- P.S. Please supply three passionate blondes.
- B. H. HAYWARD.

Reunions

One by one the 1952 Reunions are slipping by. The two-day meeting at Liverpool—July 10th and 12th—brought together nearly a hundred men. On the first day, Mr. D. G. Hopewell, a member of our Executive Council, and Mr. Fred Wooldridge, J.P., Chairman of the South Cheshire District Committee of the British Legion, were the special guests. On the 12th, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were present to welcome the gathering. The presence of Matron Vaughan Davies and a party from the Blackpool Home added to the pleasure of the first day's meeting. When Manchester and district men met two days later, Mr. Hopewell was there also, this time with Mr. H. H. Chesworth, J.P., County Hon. Secretary for the South Lancs. County Committee of the Legion. Then down to Southampton where Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., our President, was the special guest on August 6th. Sir Neville also journeyed to Leeds to attend the Reunion there on August 16th. Mr. Hopewell was the guest at Newcastle two days later, and again at Glasgow on August 20th. To everyone's pleasure, Miss M. T. Wood, late Welfare Visitor for Scotland, was at this Reunion.

A week later, and it was the turn of Leicester, Sir Neville Pearson again being the guest of honour. A warm welcome was given to Mr. Ottaway also.

Brighton on September 3rd, was, naturally enough, one of the biggest Reunions. As in previous years it was an evening meeting at the Grand Hotel. Sir Neville Pearson was the guest of honour, with Lady Pearson. Smaller, but no less successful, was the Birmingham meeting on the 8th, when the guest was Mr. Hopewell.

At all the meetings which he could not attend personally, a message was read from Sir Ian. Need we add also that at every meeting there was a warm cheer for the presence of Miss Pain?

Found

A St. Dunstan's badge was picked up at the Birmingham Reunion. Will the owner apply to Miss Wilson at Headquarters.

Golden Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. A. Isaac, of Glasgow, August 25th. Many congratulations.

Talking Book Library

August Accumulations

"Accumulations" seems an appropriate heading after two barren months, but in view of the fact that a book of reminiscence, two romances, and a fantasy are the sum total of the releases, the heading appears a slight exaggeration. Three Victorians and an Edwardian coming up:

"Villette," by Charlotte Brontë, reader David Lloyd James, is a three-volume novel with Lucy Snow, a school mistress, as heroine. The school is on the continent, and whereas the subsidiary characters have smooth romances, poor Lucy has many heart-rending and hair-raising experiences to survive. There are a number of ingenious little twists in the story and a quantity of padding, some rather beautiful, some a trifle ludicrous. Soothing reading, but it needs too much time and hardly holds the whole attention.

"The Edwardian Story," by Shaw Desmond, reader Richard Wessell, is as happy as it should be when one considers the period. The extension of Victorian peace and prosperity and the calm before the storm of two earth-shaking wars must surely seem an idyll on reflecting back. Interesting reminiscences, written from the angle of the "few" rather than the "many."

"Nicolas and Antoinette," by Freda Lingstron, reader Jack de Manio, is a romance of an Alpine farm which demands great strength and endurance of the people who wring a livelihood from it. Except for a short Parisian interlude, the story is a half-century of fighting, farming, and the loyal, strong and moving association of Nick and Antoinette. Sad, maybe, but it does invite reading.

"Memoirs of a Midget," by Walter de la Mare, reader Alvar Lidell, I have called a fantasy, but it is within the bounds of possibility that it is a biography. The trials and tribulations of a two-and-a-half foot refined, adult female, in the hurly burly of 19th century England keep one, between laughter and tears for the greater part of the book. Dogs and small boys can be frightening to the ordinary human, but imagine the hazard to this poor woman left an orphan at twenty. She gets a patroness, but tiring of mockery, she takes a temporary job in a circus. Disgusted by the publicity she retires to her lodgings and writes her memoirs, which you may now read.

NELSON.

The Women's Point of View

I am sure July 10th will stand out vividly in the memory of many people in South Norwood, for on that day Beryl Sleigh, Blodwyn Simon, Gwen Obern, Thelma Meredith and I decided to demonstrate to an audience some of the many activities we pursue.

The organiser was Miss Mary Jameson, M.B.E., and of course, her mother, sister and many other helpful people. Our commentator, believe it or not, was Miss Jeanne Heal, and my goodness, she certainly does know how to set other folk at their ease—and so cheerily too.

After a really terrific high tea—which proved to me (not for the first time) that southerners also know and appreciate that feature usually associated with the north country—we went to do our "piece." Apart from the fact that the microphone seemed at times a little difficult everything soared along as happily as you please.

I said my little piece about my trip across the Atlantic and displayed some of my bits and pieces. Thelma then demonstrated just how, with a disability additional to total blindness, she can make a pretty string bag. Blodwyn was in full force, showing a pretty crochet tablecloth in the making, finishing off a cane tray—even doing a "variety act," with Miss Heal and a member of the audience as her "assistants," and demonstrating her slickness with braille cards.

Gweny sang, as usual, really wonderfully and I personally wonder at the ever-increasing sweetness and purity of her voice. But Gwen showed that big audience she could do something other than sing—so in front of a watchful and appreciative audience she typed a sentence. Mrs. Babanau was also interviewed at this juncture and spoke simply but sympathetically of her work at Port Hall, a house which she has made into a home in every sense of the word. Beryl then showed the tray of mementoes gathered in South Africa and spoke with deep sincerity of the fact that blindness does not deter folk from wanting to collect tangible things—shells from the seaside, lovely little original carvings, etc. Beryl also sang for us, both solo and in a duet with Gweny, and gave the audience, as well as we folk on the platform, great pleasure.

After speeches came presentations. Mrs. Babanau was given a lovely violin, the presentation being made by the captain of a girls' school. We each received a hand-embroidered scarf made by Mrs. Jameson, and a box of chocolates.

I don't know what the others' thoughts were—we never do know what the other fella is thinking—but my mind had wandered off to war-days when so many times I had had to speak to several hundred A.T.S. It seemed odd to me that my voice could not carry by means of a "mike" and yet not so very long ago a parade of over a thousand had "jumped to it." But those days are receding and July 10th was making new history. What did it prove? What are its portents? That I do not know, but I hope that one day all St. Dunstan's women—those who "keep house," those who have babies and look after them, the girls who do the simple household chores of everyday, Barbara who does physiotherapy, and Winnie with her additional disabilities—will be included in a truly representative exhibition of what we, each in our way, be it spectacular or simple everyday things, can do.

MAUREEN V. LEES.

King Willow

Once again it is "au revoir" to King Willow. For just over six months it will be useless to turn the radio on, lean back, and expect to hear one of the B.B.C. commentators painting for us a picture of green and white.

As the old greybeards of the Pavilion dream and talk of Hobbs, W.G., Plum Warner, and other legendary figures, I shall sit and dream and talk of John Arlott, Swanton, Rex Alston, and others. Men whose eyes have taken me to cricket grounds I should never have visited under ordinary circumstances. Those halcyon days, sitting back in an armchair, the sun streaming through the french windows, and before me, a vision of the bright green 22 yards, with white lines, yellow stumps, red ball, and men in white with coloured caps. . . .

I support no special club, no county is really my own, but I know them all.

This past summer I have been thrilled by those dear tail-enders, splendid bowlers, and wicket keepers, but mediocre bats. What an example for all; no dread of Thompson, Laker or any of the others.

Just going in to stand up and have a go.

I see that fielder rushing to cut off a four, or trying against odds to reach a almost impossible catch.

That round of applause when a fifty is reached or a maiden over bowled.

I respect that "Twelfth Man," whose job it is to just stick around in case he is wanted, who goes into the field to take another's place with no hope of a bat, but just ready at all times to exert the last ounce to help his side.

Yes, cricket is a team game. Does any other game give such scope for individual effort, selflessness, and opportunity for giving the fellow team man a good show?

I feel sure the commentators with the cricket commentaries also work as a team, the little questions they fire at the others, all drawing for we who cannot participate a wonderful picture. Even when the cricket is quiet John Arlott brightens the time with little cameos of small boys going to tea, gasometers rising and falling, of those little incidents which add the condiments to our cricket dish.

I am sure we can all enjoy cricket, and all learn something, something I in my schooldays maybe could have learned better. Dare I quote? "There's a breathless hush in the close tonight, An hour to play, a match to win, A bumping pitch, and a blinding light, Ten to make, the last man in, And it's not for the sake of a ribboned coat, nor the selfish hope of a season's fame, but, his Captain's hand on his shoulder smote, Play up, Play up, and Play the game."

Yes, the stumps are drawn, the Pavilion closed, the 22 yards fenced in, but I shall think of it this winter, and wait with as much patience as possible for the day when I can say, "Hail, King Willow."

"THE CHINAMAN"

Placements

F. Barratt, West Ham, as the manager of cafe; W. H. Burnett, as a telephonist with the Ministry of Works, Neasden; J. Fraser, of St. Paul's Cray, as a telephonist with the Ministry of Labour; J. W. Lumb, Hessele, as a shop-keeper (tobacco and confectionery).

Ruby Wedding

Congratulations, to Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Summers, of Eastleigh, who celebrated 40 years of married life on June 29th.

Ovingdean Notes—July/August

We have said before that Sports Day at Ovingdean looked like becoming an "unofficial" Reunion for many St. Dunstaners living within easy reach of Brighton, and this was certainly the case this year. It was very nice indeed, too, that so many ex-trainees were amongst our visitors.

The day itself was once again fine and sunny, and in fact, just right for the many events on the programme, for there was a light refreshing breeze to revive the competitors, but not one of the famous gales!

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser made one of their regular visits to the Training Centre on Friday, 18th July, and were also present on Sports Day with Mr. Donald McPhee from St. Dunstan's, New Zealand. At the completion of the many field events Sir Ian presented the prizes to the winners. Our congratulations to Stuart Craig (New Zealand) and Jack Fulling (who was last year's winner) for their success this year. They share the individual Athletic Trophy for 1952. The Team Trophy remains with Ovingdean for a further year thanks to the strenuous efforts of our trainees.

Whilst we were pleased to have Sir Ian and Lady Fraser with us and Miss Pain and many other good friends, it was a disappointment that Lady Arthur Pearson, who had hoped to be present, was not well enough to come, but happily she has since stayed at Hove for a few days and during that time came to visit both West House and Ovingdean. She wishes to be remembered to all St. Dunstaners, and we look forward to another visit before long.

We welcomed Sir Neville and Lady Pearson, who were prevented by another engagement from joining us on Sports Day, when they visited Ovingdean and West House on July 24th, just before the end of the Training Term.

There was a whirl of entertainments before the trainees left for their Summer vacation. On Sunday, July 27th, a morning steamer trip was arranged and that same day we welcomed a return visit from the Florence Moore Theatre, when they gave an extremely good production of T. S. Eliot's play "The Cocktail Party." On the following Monday there was the End of Term Dance and on July 29th, the trainees departed.

By the week-end the Home was once again almost full for the Bank Holiday

Week-end, for which a varied programme of amusements had been arranged. The Coach Drives remain as popular as ever, and the Transport section was kept very busy with tours of Sussex and taking the racegoers to various meetings throughout the Sussex Fortnight.

Later in the month a visit was made to Ovingdean by "Petty Officer" Jack Watson, who has been appearing for the summer season at the Dolphin Theatre, Brighton. He came along to entertain St. Dunstaners on holiday here and brought with him several other members of the Company.

Another well-known entertainer who visited us this month is Walter Wade, the cabaret artist with an amusing repertoire of songs. Gwennie Obern and Beryl Sleigh, both staying at Port Hall at the time, completed an enjoyable evening's entertainment with their singing.

Physiotherapy Conference

The splendid work being done by war-blinded chartered physiotherapists in hospitals and in private practice up and down the country was praised by Brigadier General J. G. Smyth, V.C., M.C., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Pensions, when he addressed their annual Conference at Ovingdean during the last week-end in August. The Conference, which was attended by more than one hundred physiotherapists, discussed many aspects of treatment, ranging from plastic surgery to muscle re-education. The guests included Professor T. Pomfret Kilner, C.B.E., F.R.C.S., Mr. R. J. S. Reynolds, S.R.N., M.C.S.P., Miss Hester Angove, ex-Principal of the Physiotherapy School, Miss M. J. Neilson, Secretary of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, and Mr. John Jenkins, Principal of the Physiotherapy School. Sir Ian Fraser presided at the luncheon on Saturday and at the Conference which followed. The previous evening there had been an inspection and demonstrations of electronic apparatus. On Saturday morning there was a lecture on Plastic Surgery and the part that physiotherapy can play in this branch of healing, by Professor Kilner. He expressed the view that "team work is most important in plastic surgery and the physiotherapist is an essential and an extremely important member of that team."

Mr. J. D. Calder was re-elected Chairman of the Physiotherapy Advisory Committee for the ensuing year.

Mental Letters

I have found a new and absorbing occupation to while away the time when doing my household chores. I write mental letters to the Editor of the REVIEW. I have surprised myself at the variety of subjects. I must have filled sheets of mental notepaper, stuck on hundreds of imaginary stamps.

I have written about the people I have met in my boarding house—some with cars and fur coats, others with only the bare necessities which they have had to work hard for. The couple who boasted of their car, television set, electric washer, and so on, but who turned back because there had been a mistake of half a crown on their bill. The two girls from the theatre who played about with a bottle of tomato sauce in the dining room. How it managed to get on the door at the other side of the room, I do not know, but it was easier to clean off than that on the new carpet! There were the old soldiers, too, of both wars, who always seemed to have been sergeants and able to tell the new officers what to do. (No St. Dunstaners referred to here).

Another imaginary letter was about macrame twiners. I found it easiest to work with the frame on my knee, with the box containing the twine on my right on the floor. There is a hole in the centre of the lid about the size of a penny; the twine is threaded through and up through the centre of the frame. The hole allows the twine to unrove without knotting and getting all tied up. When I come to the casting-off stage, I cut the twine (once round the frame and about two pegs over). It makes the process easier.

I could go on for hours writing my mental letters until my store of subjects runs out and I come down to earth with a bump—or rather, to the kitchen sink!

MARGARET STANWAY.

Grandfathers

Tommy Milner, of Liverpool; C. T. Kelk, of Hastings; this makes his one-year-old daughter, little Susan Margaret, an auntie; Harry Pierrepont, of Boston; E. Watts, of Birkenhead; G. J. Smith, of Leicester (the eighth grandchild).

Marriage

LLOYD.—On August 16th, A. Lloyd, of Accrington.

Births

ALLEN.—On July 26th, to the wife of W. Allen, of Aldershot, a son—Ashley Anthony.

BEATTIE.—In June, to the wife of D. N. Beattie, of North Queensland, a son—David Stanley.

BENTLEY.—On July 29th, to the wife of F. Bentley, of Birmingham, a son—Derek Kenneth.

CRADDOCK.—On August 29th, to the wife of R. A. Craddock, of Warrington, a son—Peter.

FILBY.—On September 7th, to the wife of W. E. Filby, of Streatham, a son—Keith Mervyn.

KEMPE.—On July 24th, to the wife of S. N. Kempe, of Porkellis, Cornwall, a son.

LEWIS.—On July 18th, to the wife of J. Lewis, of Ewell, a daughter—Jacqueline Anne.

LYNCH.—On August 19th, to the wife of J. Lynch, of Hornchurch, a daughter—Michele Anne.

McNAMARA.—On August 24th, to the wife of S. McNamara, of Dublin, a son.

PREECE.—On September 3rd, to the wife of R. Preece, of Hangleton, Hove, a son.

WATERS.—On August 3rd, to the wife of A. Waters, of Needham, Norfolk, a son—Paul John.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes to the following:

INNESS.—To J. Inness, of Dewsbury, whose father died on August 4th.

JOHNS.—To L. Johns, of Totnes, whose father died on August 1st.

McELIGOTT.—To A. F. McElligott, of Bradpole, whose eldest sister has died after an illness of a few days.

McGUIRE.—To T. McGuire, of Drogheda, Eire, who lost his wife on August 16th.

PALMER.—To H. A. Palmer, of West Hartlepool, whose sister, who looked after him, has died suddenly.

ROBINSON.—To B. Robinson, of Scarborough, whose wife passed away suddenly on August 1st.

SMITH.—To W. C. Smith, of Melbourne, Derbyshire, whose wife died last month in hospital after a long illness.

SOUTHEN.—To G. Southen, of Folkestone, whose wife passed away suddenly on July 30th.

WOODGET.—To D. Woodget, of Bournemouth, whose wife died suddenly on August 6th.

“In Memory”

Private Lundie Forrester, *Machine Gun Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Lundie Forrester, of Glasgow.

Wounded in Italy in 1918, he came to St. Dunstan's in 1920 after prolonged hospital treatment and he trained as a telephonist. He retired however, some time ago. His health had not been good of recent months but his death on holiday in Derbyshire was nevertheless unexpected.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral, which was attended by his fellow St. Dunstaners, Messrs. P. Yuill, J. Irvine, and J. May, and Miss Gordon.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his wife and family.

A.B. Robert Lock, *Royal Navy*

With deep regret we record the death of Robert Lock, of Portsmouth, at the age of fifty-two. He had been with us only two months.

Enlisting when he was only seventeen, he remained in the Service until his discharge in November, 1943. When he was admitted to St. Dunstan's benefits in June of this year, he was very ill indeed and he passed away two months later.

Cremation took place on September 2nd, and among the flowers was St. Dunstan's wreath of poppies.

He leaves a widow to whom our very sincere sympathy is extended.

Private Harry Hotson, *8th East Yorks. Regt.*

We record with deep regret the death of H. Hotson, of Brough.

He served from October, 1914, until March, 1917. He was blinded on the Somme, receiving also very severe facial injuries. When he came to us during that year he trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker. During the last war he was anxious to make his contribution to the war effort and he took up factory work most successfully in spite of his severe handicaps.

His death took place on July 25th, after a brief illness.

Sir Ian's wreath was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

Gunner Thomas Smith, *14th Durham Light Infantry*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of T. Smith, of Boldon Colliery, which occurred at his home on July 22nd.

He enlisted in September, 1914, and was wounded in France in 1917. He was completely blinded and received also severe wounds in his left leg. After training with us in that year as a mat-maker, he carried on this work for many years, but he had been ill for a long time now.

A wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstaner friends was sent for the funeral.

He leaves a wife and family to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Sergeant Major Henry Green, *Royal Horse Artillery*

We record with deep regret the death of H. Green, of Sheringham, at the age of seventy six.

Although he was discharged from the Army in 1919, he did not come to St. Dunstan's until March, 1949, when owing to his age, he did not enter actual training. His health had been very poor for a long time and he passed away on August 3rd.

Our sincere sympathy is offered to his sister-in-law.

Fire Watcher William Henry Robertson, *Civil Defence*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. H. Robertson, of Ipswich.

Injured during an air raid while on duty as a firewatcher, he was admitted to St. Dunstan's benefits in January, 1944. He did not train however, but returned to his occupation of shopkeeper. He became ill some months ago and was admitted to hospital where he died on August 12th.

He leaves a widow and grown up family to whom we offer our deep sympathy.

Private John Simpkins, *Pioneer Corps*

We record with regret the sudden death of J. Simpkins, of Tooting, at the age of sixty four.

Badly gassed in 1917, the delayed effects of this brought him to St. Dunstan's in July, 1950, but he did not undertake training, preferring to remain in business. He gave this up, however, later and took up joinery.

His death took place very suddenly on July 27th.

Sir Ian's wreath was among the flowers at the funeral.

He leaves a widow and grown up family to whom our sincere sympathy is offered.

George Regan, *King's Own Scottish Borderers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of G. O. Regan, of Salford.

Although he lost his sight as a result of service in the first World War, he did not come to us until early this year when he was already a very sick man. His death occurred on July 10th.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstaner friends.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his relatives.

A. Gauthier, *21st Canadian Forces*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of A. Gauthier, of Quebec.

Wounded at Cambrai in October, 1918, he came to St. Dunstan's in the following May and became a first-class mat-maker and netter. He married in Manchester in 1920 and he and his wife returned to Canada that year. They had a family of six children.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his wife and family.

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Blackpool Home

In the early days of the Second World War, we acquired for war time use the Blackpool Home so that men who needed rest or a holiday would have somewhere to go. Some three or four years later I said in the REVIEW that we would maintain this Home for a few more years whilst Ovingdean was being wholly utilised as a Training Centre.

The position now is that it is only necessary to set aside a small number of beds at Ovingdean for trainees; the remaining beds now adequately meet the needs of all St. Dunstaners who desire to have a holiday.

In these circumstances we have regretfully decided that the Blackpool Home shall be closed at the end of this year.

The Blackpool Home, under the able Matronship of Miss Vaughan-Davies, has done a grand job for the past twelve years, including some very difficult war years, and I know my St. Dunstan's friends would desire to pay a warm tribute to Matron and her staff for the friendly atmosphere they inspired.

We shall not only miss the Home and Matron and her staff, but also the very many kindly people in Blackpool, including the Mayor and Corporation, representatives of the entertainment world, and many officials, and workers in shops, transport, and other spheres of life, as well as the visitors who come to help us.

Miss Vaughan-Davies, who joined St. Dunstan's staff in 1921, would have reached retiring age in a year's time, and it is perhaps a pity that her retirement and the closing of the Home could not have synchronised, but this would have meant that there would be an undue proportion of vacant beds in both Ovingdean and Blackpool which I am afraid we could not justify.

I know that many St. Dunstaners who have spent happy times at Blackpool will read these notes with regret, but all who contemplated staying there in the coming year can be accommodated at Ovingdean, and the Welfare Department will be happy to make the necessary arrangements.

All will join in thanking the members of the staff who will be leaving us, and in wishing Miss Vaughan-Davies great happiness in her retirement.

“Ian Hay”

Major General John Hay Beith, known to the world as “Ian Hay,” novelist and playwright, died on September 26th. Major Beith had been a member of St. Dunstan's Executive Council since December, 1931. One who wrote so charmingly

about the humour and character of the British soldier must have understood him well, and it was a great pleasure to us when "Ian Hay," who for years had interested himself in St. Dunstan's, joined our Council. Many will remember his celebrated book, "The First Hundred Thousand," and some will remember "The Poor Gentleman," whose hero was a war-blinded soldier.

A Memorial Service was held at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on October 9th, at which Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., our President, and Mr. W. G. Askew, Secretary, represented St. Dunstan's.

Miss "Johnny" Walker

I regret that St. Dunstan's is to lose the services of Miss Walker, who has been associated with us since 1944, chiefly as Matron of our Physiotherapy Hostel at 12 Park Crescent, and latterly at Broadhurst Gardens, Hampstead.

Miss Walker served first as a V.A.D. at Brockhurst, Church Stretton. She then took over the physiotherapy hostel set up as an emergency measure at Croxley Green during the air raids, and at the end of 1944 become Matron at Park Crescent.

All St. Dunstaners, and in particular the many physiotherapists who came under her efficient, friendly and charming care, will remember her with affection, and wish her good luck in the future.

IAN FRASER.

London Reunion

St. Dunstaners in the London area are reminded that the London Reunion Dance will be held on Wednesday, November 26th, from 7.30 until 11 p.m., and that application for tickets should be made to the Welfare Superintendent at Headquarters not later than Monday, November 10th.

One ticket will admit a St. Dunstaner and one escort (it is regretted that children under sixteen cannot be included).

Mr. Alex Mackay

The Chairman, in his Notes last month, referred to the resignation of Mr. Mackay, and some St. Dunstaners have expressed the wish to subscribe to a presentation to him. Mr. Askew has offered to act as Honorary Treasurer and St. Dunstaners who wish to associate themselves with the fund should send their subscriptions to him at 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1.

Braille Reading Competition

A number of Metropolitan boroughs are again holding a Braille Reading Competition. This year it will take place on Saturday, November 29th, at Caxton Hall, Westminster. St. Dunstaners who are interested should enquire at their Public Library for full particulars. The closing date for entries is October 31st.

Placements

J. Slee, of Penrith, as a market gardener with Mr. E. N. Naylor, Garstang, Lancashire; R. Tingay, of Brighton, as a capstan operator with Messrs. Vickers Armstrong, Ltd., Dartford, Kent.

American Visit

Early in October, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser returned from a brief visit to Canada and the United States. In Canada they met Colonel Baker, Bill Dies, Edward Dunlop, Fred Woodcock, and others who had been at St. Dunstan's, and were entertained by Mr. L. Wood and Lady Kemp, the Presidents of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

In the United States they visited the Library of Congress in Washington, the American Foundation for the Blind in New York, and the American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, to discuss the Talking Book. As reported in the September REVIEW, Britain has developed machines for recording books on magnetic tape, and the purpose of Sir Ian's discussions with the Americans was to ensure that any new developments will follow agreed standards so that books may be interchangeable. The Americans and the British are now to engage in intensive research exchanging all information.

While in New York, Sir Ian spent four hours in court giving evidence in a case in which a large legacy which may amount to more than £60,000 for St. Dunstan's, was being contested on the ground that St. Dunstan's had been nationalised. Sir Ian explained that St. Dunstan's had not been nationalised and that in his opinion the National Health Act did not give the Minister power to nationalise it. The case is still *sub judice*.

London Club Notes

Bridge.—Eight of our members made the trip to Harrogate this year, accompanied by Mr. Bob Willis and Blodwyn's sister, for a week's competitive and social bridge. We had two teams in the Sunday evening event for the St. Dunstan's Cup for Harrogate Teams of Four; our team, which consisted of Messrs. Gover, Nuyens, Winter and Thompson, came second, so we leave the Cup at Harrogate. We played four other matches, two of which we won. We again visited all the Bridge Clubs and Golf Clubs of Harrogate, and the whole tour was very pleasant.

On the Thursday we went to the country for lunch and tea, being entertained by Mr. Noakes and Mr. Morrison and their friends. This is one of the highlights of the trip. On Friday we had our usual "At Home" to the people we had met and played with at the various clubs. This was a Bridge Drive, and prizes were articles made by the men of St. Dunstan's. The Drive was held at the Dirlston Hotel, where we were staying. It was a great success, seventy-two people attending. Mr. Willis was a great help to me and to everyone in the party.

We have again entered two teams in the London Business Houses League. As I write, Paul Nuyens' team has played two matches, winning one, losing one. "Tiny" Fleming's team has yet to play. H. GOVER.

Indoor Section.—The winter season has started off well. We have visited the Women's Conservative Association, Dartford, for a social evening, and a party from Shell Mex Sports Club have visited the Club. We are looking forward to meeting them again.

Dance.—This will be held at the Victory Club, Edgware Road, Marble Arch, 7.30 p.m., Monday, November 3rd. Ron Bell and his Orchestra. Sir Arthur Pearson Competitions for waltz and fox-trot. Dancers and partners must be strictly amateur. Tickets, 2s. 6d., from the Club or members of the Committee. Book the date now—Monday, November 3rd.

CHAS. J. WALKER.

Outdoor Section.—We very much regret that, owing to colds, etc., the Swimming Gala has had to be cancelled. We thank would-be competitors and our helpers for their support and look forward to next year.

Our programme for Walks for the coming year is as follows:—

Oct. 18—5 miles.

Nov. 15—6 miles.

Dec. 6—7 miles.

Jan. 24, 1953—7 miles championship.

Mar. 7—12 miles.

Apr. 11—15 miles, Wembley.

May 30—7 miles, Brighton.

First five races, 2.30 p.m., Regent's Park.

Our season has begun with a $4\frac{3}{4}$ mile Walk at Halton, and a 2 mile Handicap at Highgate. Full details below.

R.A.F. (Halton) v. St. Dunstan's At Halton, September 20th, 1952

Pos.	Name	Club	Time	All.	H'cp.	H'cp.
					Time	Pos.
1	L/C. Greasley	R.A.F.	41.45	Scr.	41.45	
2	A/A. Hallinson	R.A.F.	42.00	2.05	39.55	3
3	A/A. Haynes	R.A.F.	42.29	2.20	40.09	6
4	W. Miller	St. D's.	42.45	1.55	40.50	7
5	A/A. Gardner	R.A.F.	42.46	2.40	40.06	5
6	T. Gaygan	St. D's.	43.04	Scr.	43.04	
7	A/A. Lloyd	R.A.F.	43.20	2.00	41.20	
8	F/S. McConnochie	R.A.F.	32.26	2.25	41.01	
9	A/A. Roden	R.A.F.	43.45	2.30	41.15	
10	W/O. Bird	R.A.F.	43.52	2.30	41.22	
11	C. Williamson	St. D's.	44.33	2.40	41.53	
12	A. Brown	St. D's.	44.36	2.00	42.36	
13	A/A. Holman	R.A.F.	44.58	3.05	41.53	
14	A/A. Daughtry	R.A.F.	45.03	5.40	39.23	2
15	A/A. Buggy	R.A.F.	45.13	5.10	40.03	4
16	F/S. Haldick	R.A.F.	45.35	4.30	41.05	
17	A/A. Bridgman	R.A.F.	45.41	3.30	42.11	
18	R.A.F.	R.A.F.	45.50	—	—	
19	A/A. Truluck	R.A.F.	46.06	5.25	40.41	10
20	A/A. Johnson	R.A.F.	46.16	5.15	41.01	12
21	A/A. Kemmish	R.A.F.	47.09	6.10	40.19	11
22	F/S. Williams	R.A.F.	47.23	5.45	41.39	
23	A. Bradley	St. D's.	48.05	6.25	41.40	
24	A/A. Parkinson	R.A.F.	48.19	—	—	
25	S. Tutton	St. D's.	48.22	11.25	36.57	1
26	A/A. Southworth	R.A.F.	48.30	5.10	43.20	
27	C. Stafford	St. D's.	48.58	6.45	42.10	
28	A/A. Kent	R.A.F.	49.13	8.45	40.28	8
29	G. Dennis	St. D's.	50.09	9.30	40.39	9
30	A/A. Higgs	R.A.F.	53.25	8.45	44.40	

Match Result

(Six to Score)

R.A.F. (Halton): 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8	26 points
St. Dunstan's: 4, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14	60 points

St. Dunstan's 2-Mile Highgate, September 27th, 1952

Order of Finish	H'cp.	Time	Allow.	Actual
				Time
Dennis	16.45	3.00		19.45
Miller	16.59	.10		17.09
Bradley	17.14	1.55		19.09
Denmead	17.17	1.50		19.07
Williamson	17.27	.15		17.42
Brown	17.31	.20		17.51
Stafford	17.45	2.20		20.05
Tutton	17.57	1.35		19.32
Gaygan	18.04	Scr.		18.04
Fleisig	19.21	2.30		21.51

Presentation to Mr. Lale

The London Club was well attended on Tuesday, October 7th, for the presentation to Mr. Lale of a grandmother clock, a bedside cabinet, and some bowling "woods," the gift of St. Dunstaners all over the country, on his retirement.

Mr. Askew, who acted as Honorary Treasurer to the fund, said that he thought it appropriate for the presentation to be made at the Club, where so many men all over the country met, add then he called on Mr. Percy Ashton, chairman of the London Club, to make the presentation on behalf of St. Dunstaners.

Mr. Ashton handed to Mr. Lale the clock bearing the inscription:—

"Presented to Mr. Percy R. Lale by the war-blinded men and women of St. Dunstan's in appreciation of his help and friendship

1920—1952"

and in a brief speech said that in his long service with St. Dunstan's, Mr. Lale had made many friends. His invaluable help, his great courtesy, were always at the service of St. Dunstaners, and there were few who had not benefited by his advice. He then called for three hearty cheers for Mr. Lale, which were given with tremendous enthusiasm.

Mr. Lale writes:—

"I do very much appreciate your farewell messages and gifts on my retirement.

"Please accept my sincere thanks for your kind friendship in the many years it has been my privilege and pleasure to serve you. I shall always have in mind your courage and the spirit you have inspired in others.

"I hope to meet as many of you as possible in the future. PERCY R. LALE."

Mr. Mackay Writes—

Dear St. Dunstaners,

During the last few weeks I have received a large number of letters and telephone calls from St. Dunstaners throughout the country. I am afraid it is impossible for me to reply to each one personally, but I can assure you that I deeply appreciate your kind thoughts and good wishes. Please accept my grateful thanks; you are often in my thoughts. My wife joins me in sending our very best wishes for your future health and happiness. Good luck to you all.

Yours sincerely, ALEX. MACKAY.

Road of Heartbreaks

On September 13th, under the shadow of Big Ben, I, along with 126 others, stood awaiting the first stroke of 7 a.m. to set us off on the Blue Ribbon of road walking—52 miles, 600 yards to Brighton.

Off I set with a big heart and a lot to learn, but full of confidence to break our record. I set a pace not exceeding $5\frac{1}{4}$ miles per hour until I reached Streatham Hill, where I decided to increase to $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles per hour. I turned into the approach to Streatham Common when, to my horror, my right ankle took a nasty jar. Worse was to come. I proceeded on to Croydon and Purley, where I was told that I was on time but to warm it up a little bit more, which I did to $5\frac{3}{4}$ miles per hour. By this time I was in grave trouble with my ankle, wondering whether to pack in or stick it out. I decided the latter.

On to Redhill, another time check point, and to my surprise I was walking faster. Up to Earlswood Common and on to Horley. I was walking 6 miles per hour now and nearly half-way there, when something overtook me for which I cannot account. I started to go slower and, to my bitter disappointment, at Crawley was 6 minutes in arrears with 22 miles of the road to cover. I ran into more trouble when climbing up Hand Cross—I just could not pull on my ankle, but gritted my teeth and pushed on to Bolney, where my time was 7 hours 12 minutes walking, and eight minutes inside the record and only 14 miles to go.

What a fourteen miles. On, and on, up to the Sussex Downs, a terrible seven miles, and my ankle twice its normal size. On the top of Dale Hill at last I decided to pack in, but my escort would not let me. Only 6 miles to go, and 55 minutes left. I felt I could not do it, but tried and got under way again for three miles. I was then told I could not get inside the record, so I strolled home in 10 hours 7 minutes 24 seconds—ten minutes and three seconds outside. I hope to have better luck next time.

C. WILLIAMSON.

Cardiff Reunion

The Cardiff meeting took place on September 20th., the last of the 1952 Reunions. Mr. Mackay presided and called on Miss Pain and Miss Wilson to say a few words, which they did and which were received with much pleasure.

From All Quarters

The programme of our "Have a Go" broadcast, recorded at the London Club last December, was heard over the air in New Zealand at the beginning of October—ten months afterwards. A relative of John Mudge living there wrote to tell him she had heard him.

★ ★ ★

Gerry Brereton is fast becoming a popular B.B.C. broadcaster. He was in the well-known television programme, "What's My Line," recently, and as we go to press is due to appear in the Saturday night programme, "Television Music Hall" on October 18th—with a prominent photograph in the "Radio Times."

★ ★ ★

Yet another broadcaster. Des. Coupe, one of our physiotherapists—and, incidentally, treats the members of Preston North End F.C.—was heard on Radio Luxembourg on Wednesday, October 22nd, at 8.30 p.m., in a programme entitled "It's a Goal."

★ ★ ★

Councillor H. W. ("Bunny") Greatrex, who is chairman of Peacehaven Parish Council, has also been successful in the Chailey Rural District Council Election, gaining 357 votes to his opponent's 114.

★ ★ ★

G. H. Pollard, of Rothwell, near Kettering, has secured sufficient votes to ensure his election as Shop Steward, to serve on the local Railway Departmental Committee.

★ ★ ★

Roy Glover, of Portsmouth, who was the weekly winner of the Talent Competition at Middleton Towers Holiday Camp earlier in the year, was one of five winning contestants in the Finals.

★ ★ ★

P. Wood, of Hyde, Cheshire, has secured his certificate of the College of Teachers of the Blind; he secured honours in one section of the examination.

★ ★ ★

Charles Luker, of Wandsworth, gave a display of magic at a Sunday School Party at Braunton Parish Church, near Oakham, on September 27th. This is the church of which another St. Dunstaner, Canon W. G. Speight, is Vicar.

★ ★ ★

Another grandson for two St. Dunstaners—C. Firth, of Heswall, and E. Alexander, of Parkstone, Dorset.

A granddaughter for L. Coulson, of Horsham, and S. Sephton, of St. Helen's.

Arthur Hamlett, of Winsford, is famous locally for his home-grown tobacco. He already has a stock of twenty pounds of tobacco ready for next year. The *Winsford Chronicle* gave him a splendid write-up.

Unbeaten

Old Chris mystified us with his magic stud. It softened the hardest-starched button-holes before passing through them with the greatest of ease. We never learned his secret.

I met a quiet old comrade creeping down the stairs, head drooping, like a dog with its tail between its legs. I guided him to the lounge. He sighed heavily.

"I'd rather sit before this crackling fire than listen to Old Chris's crackling," he said, as I lowered him gently into an easy chair, and asked the sisters to comfort him.

I hurried to the storm centre. Chris's ward seemed as usual—except that Chris was not there. A thunderous roar nearly split me asunder. I laughed nervously to mask my fright and, with a face bloodless and valiant, went cautiously to the bathroom. Never have I seen such disarray. Chris sat on a chair in a punctured attitude, he wore one untied shoe, his tie hung about his neck like a piece of wet string, his hair was rumpled, a bloodstained shirt and collar were draped across his knees, and he strove to staunch a bleeding finger with a cigarette paper.

"Sure thing you'd poke your ugly mug in," he grunted.

"What's the trouble?" I asked softly.

"The ———!!! laundry people!"

"S-s-s—sh! Chris."

"I lost my patent stud," he gulped, "I tried to force open the buttonholes with a blade of my knife, cut one through, stabbed a three-inch gash into my shirt, and chopped a wedge into my finger."

"A pity you lost that stud."

"In a way, yes," he said, "I made it myself—ah, fifty years ago. It went right through the war with me. In fact, every where I went he went with me. I wish now that I had patented it. But I ain't beaten yet. I've got another mystifier for 'em. Come, I'll show it to you."

He dragged a miniature mangle from his locker, slid a scrap of paper between the rollers, turned the handle and produced a ten-shilling note. He flatly refused to let me use it.

"A real money spinner, this is."

I agreed.

W. E. BROOKES.

Pensions Debated at Conservative Conference

At the Conservative Conference at Scarborough, the following resolution was proposed:—

"That this Conference congratulates the Government on the improvements made in War Disability Pensions and War Widows' Pensions and on the care and humanity with which the Ministry of Pensions deals with the welfare of war disabled persons. It expresses the hope that the Government will continue to keep the interests and claims of the war disabled and their dependants under review, with the object of making further improvements when the national situation permits."

The debate on this resolution came at the end of the morning session, and the chairman was proceeding to call Brigadier Smyth to wind up the debate when there were cries of dissent from the assembled delegates, who called for Sir Ian to speak. Sir Ian said:—

"I like to think that this is a non-Party matter. That is how we look at it in the House of Commons. It is a strange fact that when you improve people's wages, and when you reduce taxation, you put more money in circulation and you consequently make life worse for older people, sick people and war pensioners.

"The problem of dealing with the disabled ex-servicemen is really a very simple one; it is just a question of making up our minds what we think comes first. I affirm that first of all comes the solvency of our country. Next, after that, comes the provision of the services by which we live, and the security forces which defend us from destruction. But next after that—and, I claim, first in the social service queue—should come the redeeming of our debt to the men who have been wounded in preserving all that we stand for.

"Successive governments since the war have done a good deal to improve the condition, especially of the worst disabled ex-servicemen, and this Government have devoted a larger sum than has hitherto been set aside in any year towards improving war pensions and widows' pensions. I have thanked the Government in Parliament, and I thank them again.

"The British Legion, had they been drafting this resolution, would have worded it differently. They would have laid more stress upon the last sentence.

"It is true that the overwhelming majority of disabled ex-servicemen are still receiving compensation which is a long way

behind what they ought to have, having regard to what we gave them between the wars, what we gave during and since the war, and the fall that has taken place in the buying power of their compensation.

"Whatever my honourable friend may tell you when he winds up this debate about the provisions that are made for selected numbers of very severely disabled men, it remains a fact that for the overwhelming majority, Britain has not yet done enough.

"Lastly, I want to say that I welcome the wording in the resolution which praises the Minister of Pensions, Mr. Amery, and the Parliamentary Secretary, Brigadier Smyth. They are men whom we in the British Legion and in the ex-Service movement can approach freely and talk to. They have their hearts in their job, and they are doing their best. Let this Conference strengthen their hand by saying that, consistent with the primary needs of our country, we mean to see that this debt of honour be properly paid."

Do You Wear a Hat?

During the heat wave (remember it?) I visited the West End, shopping, with the wife. As later I was paying a visit to friends, I had dressed with care—best suit, good shave, etc. As usual I wore no hat, and with the warmth, no raincoat or mac. My wife hinted that a walk round Gowns and Dresses would please her. This bores me, so I had myself duly parked close to a wall, where I could wait in comfort and not be in the way. Sitting back upon my white stick I wandered off into dreams and meditative thought. When wham! I came back to earth! A broad Yorkshire voice was saying, "Can tha tell t'way to tha Gent's Outfitting?" I smiled, and denied all knowledge of its position, casually bringing my white stick to the fore. Murmured apologies, and Yorkshire had gone. I lapsed again into thought. Again, a timid voice. "Is the Ladies' Rest Room through here?" I apologised this time and pointed out that I, too, was a client and not staff.

I stood with my stick in front until a charming little lady purred, "Can I help you, sir?" I was then confused but my wife arrived at that moment and all was well.

In future I shall wear a hat on such occasions or else stand next to a dummy and hang a ticket on my suit. Or fall back upon the husband's normal way out—let the wife go on her own. JOHN MUDGE.

Unveiling of Mons Memorial

On Saturday, October 11th, Field Marshal Earl Alexander, Britain's Minister of Defence, unveiled a monument at Mons to the British and Canadian soldiers killed there in the first and last battles of the 1914-1918 war. King Baudouin of the Belgians attended the ceremony with the Belgian Prime Minister and other members of the Belgian Government. Sir Ian Fraser, President of the British Legion, was among the British representatives.

Lord Alexander spoke briefly of August 23rd, 1914, when, as a subaltern in the Irish Guards, he was at Mons in command of an infantry platoon. The Memorial, he said would last as an inspiration to future generations, and also a reminder to any who should in future ever dare to invade the soil of Belgium that they will be met by that undying spirit which is interpreted in those famous words "They shall not pass."

Sir Ian Fraser said that memorials such as this one were set up not to glorify war but to remember the readiness of men to die for a cause, and to honour self-sacrifice. Just after the first battle of Mons, Kaiser Wilhelm issued an order of the day to his soldiers to sweep the contemptible little army into the sea. With inimitable courage the contemptible little army stood on the Marne. The Kaiser's jeer had been converted into a glorious name: "The Old Contemptibles."

"If we can emulate the military virtues and the readiness of sacrifice of these dead and keep our Motherlands free and strong and firm of purpose, we may yet preserve, from a new threat, the peace for which all men yearn.

"The spirit of Mons must now be the spirit of Europe."

Young St. Dunstaners

Raymond Millen, of Birchington, has passed the final examination of the City and Guilds of London Institute.

★ ★ ★

Dennis Dembenski, who is apprenticed to plumbing, has passed the Intermediate examination of the City and Guilds of London Institute.

★ ★ ★

Michael Pearey, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, has passed out of Dartmouth Naval College meritoriously, and has been appointed a Midshipman.

Marriages

On September 11th, Audrey King, of Bridlington, to Radio Officer Maurice Michael Proctor. They will live in Ceylon.

On September 20th, Stanislaus Sephton to Miss Jean Carlton.

On October 4th, Audrey Varley, of Mark's Tey, to Douglas Felgate.

Ovingdean Arrangements

Hove Light Orchestra, 26th October. 7.30 p.m. Florence Moore play, 2nd November, 7 p.m. Brighton Male Voice Choir, 30th November, 7.30 p.m. All local St. Dunstaners will be welcome.

Births

CRANE.—On September 9th, to the wife of N. Crane, of Warrington—a son.

PREECE.—On September 3rd, to the wife of R. Preece, of Hove, a son—Terence Ralph.

SALTERS.—On October 4th, to the wife of G. J. Salters, of Liverpool—a son.

TIBBIT.—On September 27th, to the wife of C. E. Tibbit, of Wimbledon, a son—David Bryan.

Marriage

VICKERS.—On August 16th, H. Vickers, of Bolton.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

CALLOW.—To E. E. Callow, of Brentwood, whose wife died on September 29th.

COLLIDGE.—To Mr. and Mrs. R. Collidge, of Blackpool, whose little grand-daughter, Rose Ann, died suddenly on September 28th, at the age of four.

JARVIS.—To Mr. and Mrs. A. Jarvis, of Arborfield, near Reading, whose only son has been killed whilst climbing in Ireland.

WILLIAMS.—To C. Williams, of Wrexham, whose brother has died very suddenly.

WRIGHT.—To Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Wright, of Verwood, Dorset, whose little grand-son was killed on the road in July.

WELDRICK.—To Mr. and Mrs. George Weldrick, of Hull, whose son, George, lost his life when the trawler, "Cape Farewell," sank off Greenland recently.

Silver Weddings

A. Clover, Long Melford, October 8th; H. E. Robinson, Southwick, September 27th.

★ ★ ★

W. Samworth celebrated his ruby wedding in 1951 and has now been married 41 years.

“In Memory”

Private John Lawlor, *Dublin Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of John Lawlor, of Birmingham, which occurred at his home on September 26th.

He served from September, 1914, until March, 1919. He came to St. Dunstan's in May, 1921, but he was already a sick man, although he trained as a boot repairer. The death of his wife in August, 1951, was a great blow to him. He had been ill for a considerable time and he entered West House, Brighton, for some weeks, but he returned home and died there a week later.

He received a military funeral; a poppy wreath from Sir Ian was among the many flowers.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his large and devoted family.

Private Charles Frank Vigar, *13th Canadians*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of C. F. Vigar, of Exmouth. He was 57.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1917, immediately upon his discharge from the Canadian Army. He trained in poultry farming and netting, and later had a little business. Of late years, however, his health had been extremely bad and he was able only to do a little netting for string bags.

He died very suddenly on October 6th. He had been playing bowls when he had an attack.

Sir Ian Fraser's wreath was among the flowers at the funeral.

He leaves a widow, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Private Albert Warburton, *West Yorks. Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of A. Warburton, of Leeds.

He served with his regiment from May, 1915, until May of the following year, but it was not until 1948 that he came to St. Dunstan's. Serious training was then not possible, as he was a sick man, but he learnt netting and took great pleasure from this.

His death took place unexpectedly at his home on September 13th.

A wreath of poppies from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was sent for the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family—he leaves an invalid son.

Lance Corporal Albert Edward Johnson, *Royal Army Medical Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of A. E. Johnson, of Birmingham.

As a result of his service from 1939 to 1940, his sight deteriorated and he was admitted to St. Dunstan's in January, 1949. He did not come for training, however, as he was able to carry on his professional work.

He was one of the happy party at the Lee-on-Solent Camp. He went on to Brighton for a short while and, while passing through London on his journey home, he died suddenly.

Cremation took place at Golders Green, St. Dunstan's being represented by Mr. Jack Cook and Miss G. Taylor. The Chairman's wreath was among the flowers sent for the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Johnson.

Private John George Green, *1st Lincolnshire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. G. Green, of Middlesbrough.

He served with his regiment from November, 1915, until November, 1918, but it was not until 1950 that he came to St. Dunstan's, when training was out of the question. His health was never good, but his death was unexpected.

A poppy wreath from Sir Ian was among the flowers at the funeral.

He leaves a widow and family, to whom we offer our deep sympathy.

Sergeant Major Augustine Robert Brown, *L.A.A. Royal Artillery*

With deep regret we record the death of A. R. Brown, of Hessle, Hull.

He served with his regiment from May, 1937, until January, 1945. He came to us in January, 1949, his sight having failed as a result of his service, and he was then too, a very sick man. He died at his home on August 30th.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his wife, who had nursed him so well.

Sir Ian Fraser's poppy wreath was among the flowers at the funeral.

Sergeant Francis J. French, *King's Own Royal Lancashire Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of F. J. French, of Merthyr Tydfil.

When he came to St. Dunstan's in 1933 he was never able to train seriously and for a very long time before his death he had been seriously ill, devotedly nursed by his daughter, Mrs. Harris.

Sir Ian Fraser's wreath of poppies, from his St. Dunstan's friends, was sent for the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his relatives.

George Weldrick, son of Mr. and Mrs. Weldrick, of Hull, who lost his life when the trawler, “Norman,” sunk off Greenland, went to sea first when he was 15. During the war he was in Malta during all the air attacks and later transferred to the Para-

troops. Only one member of the “Norman's” crew of twenty survived. His father was himself at sea for 37 years and lost his sight while mine laying.

* * * * *

Two items, the Birmingham Swimming Gala and News from Australia are unavoidably held over. They appear in the Braille edition.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 399—VOLUME XXXVI

NOVEMBER, 1952

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

KING George VI was the Patron of St. Dunstan's and he was also a good friend of ex-servicemen. It is not surprising, therefore, that a number of St. Dunstaners should have written to us voicing the thoughts of many that there should be an opportunity for subscribing to the King George VI Memorial Fund which the Lord Mayor of London has started. Such an opportunity could very readily be arranged by inviting St. Dunstaners, through the medium of this magazine, to send their subscriptions to us and we would in turn forward the total amount subscribed to the Lord Mayor of London. Indeed, we are very ready to do this if this is felt to be the wish of the majority of St. Dunstaners.

On the other hand, we have been informed that it is the desire of the Lord Mayor of London, and of his Committee, that donations and collections for the King George VI Memorial should be given to local funds throughout the country which are being organised by Lord Mayors, Mayors and Chairmen of Rural and Urban District Councils. It may be that St. Dunstaners will like to fall in with this request and make their contributions each to his or her local fund. I would be glad to hear the opinion of readers on this subject, but meantime, in order that any opportunity of subscribing to this good purpose should not be lost, let me say that any St. Dunstaner who supports or subscribes to his local fund will be following a very good course, but that if there are some who for one reason or another do not feel that they want to subscribe locally, or cannot easily get into touch with the organisers of the local fund, Mr. Askew would be pleased to receive a subscription from them, and, having collected any such amounts, would, after a few weeks, pass the total on to the Lord Mayor.

The purpose of the late King George VI Memorial Fund is to provide a statue of His Late Majesty to be erected in an appropriate place, but this will use up only a very small part of the Fund. The major purpose for which the money will be used is to aid all kinds of good works by voluntary contributions to societies, organisations or schemes for the young and old.

Last night, as we sat at the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, I thought of the many occasions on which the late King George VI of blessed memory has been with us, and of the affection in which he was held by men and women of the British Legion and of St. Dunstan's.

Mrs. Chadwick Bates

After an illness lasting about a year, Mrs. E. Chadwick Bates O.B.E., the Secretary of St. Dunstan's in South Africa, died in Cape Town on October 20th. The funeral service

was held in St. George's Cathedral, Cape Town, the Dean of Cape Town, the Very Rev. M. Gibbs, officiating before a large congregation of leading citizens, St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's helpers. Six St. Dunstaners acted as pall-bearers. A Memorial Service was also held at St. Mary's Cathedral, Johannesburg, on November 1st.

On behalf of St. Dunstan's, I sent a telegram to our friends in South Africa expressing our deep sympathy with them on the loss of their dear friend, who had done so much for all of them. I said that in my opinion Mrs. Chadwick Bates was the outstanding figure in the world of philanthropy in South Africa.

The older ones amongst us also remember Mrs. Bates as the first Secretary of St. Dunstan's in England, and one who greatly helped Sir Arthur Pearson in the founding of St. Dunstan's, and the present Chairman in its conduct over many years.

Thus passes one who has enriched St. Dunstan's by her ready human sympathy, her great ability, and her lifelong devotion to duty.

The Coronation

The Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen, which takes place on June 2nd of next year, is a historic event at which every ex-servicemen's organisation will wish to be represented. When the late King George VI was crowned in May, 1937, the Coronation Committee allocated a small number of seats on the route for St. Dunstaners. It is impossible at the moment to say what arrangements will be made this time, but as soon as details are known, St. Dunstaners will be informed. Enquiries already made from the Ministry of Pensions show that the matter is still under consideration and that nothing definite is likely until the New Year.

IAN FRASER

St. Dunstaner at Royal Command Performance

Fresh from his series of broadcasts on top-flight programmes, Gerry Brereton's triumphant progress culminated on November 3rd in his appearance on the programme of the Royal Command Performance. Even among the galaxy of stars that shone for Her Majesty the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, and Princess Margaret, our St. Dunstaner scored a great personal triumph. Here are extracts from the Press the next day:

"Gerry Brereton, the blind singer, touched off an immediate explosion of cheers."

EVENING STANDARD.

"Outstanding were Terry-Thomas, Ted Ray, Gerry Brereton, the blind ex-Commando baritone..."

DAILY HERALD.

"One act was recalled—Gerry Brereton."

DAILY EXPRESS.

"Among the outstanding impressions I shall carry with me for a long, long time—the blinded ex-Commando, Gerry Brereton—surely the only blind artist ever to appear in a show of this kind!—bowing to the Royal Box and having the pleasure of knowing that he was one of the biggest successes of the evening."

EVENING NEWS.

P.S.—Gerry has made his first gramophone record, "Wyoming Lullaby," for Parlophone.

Sir A. Pearson Memorial Service

On the morning of December 9th, a party of St. Dunstaners will go to Hampstead Cemetery from Headquarters, where a wreath will be placed upon Sir Arthur's grave. Subscriptions of not more than one shilling towards the wreath should be sent to Mr. Askew, at 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1.

Services will this year be held on Sunday, December 7th, at Ovingdean Chapel (11.30 a.m.) and at West House, Brighton (5 p.m.). Sir Neville Pearson will read the Lesson at each of the Services, which will be conducted by the Rev. C. G. S. Oliver, assisted by the Rev. W. Taylor.

Miss Pain

Miss D. A. Pain, who, as announced some months ago, is to make an official visit to St. Dunstaners overseas, leaves this country on December 18th and will arrive in West Australia on January 13th. She will reach New Zealand on March 5th and will stay there until about April 7th. Arrangements for her reception and entertainment are in the hands of the Blinded Soldiers' Association in each State.

London Club Notes

Bridge

The week-end of October 25th was the Ilkley Week-end. The Open Pairs competition was won by the St. Dunstan's Pair—Messrs. H. Gover and P. Nuyens—while our team of four won their way through to the final eight teams, our other two members being Messrs. F. Winter and F. Rhodes.

November 15th saw us all at Ovingdean for our own Bridge Congress. Mr. A. E. Field came with us to act as our Tournament Director, and made his usual excellent job of the arrangements.

Drummer was there to give us his usual encouragement and cheerful support.

There were two principal events, the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Cup (teams of four), and the Pairs Event for the Sir Arthur Pearson Cup. Results:

PAIRS	TEAMS OF FOUR
First: J. Walch	First: H. Gover
W. Shakspeare	P. Nuyens
Second: F. W. Winter	J. Brown
C. F. Thompson	J. Fleming
Third: C. R. Bulman	Second: M. Delaney
L. E. Caudle	A. Caldwell
	H. Cook
	F. Jackson

In the pairs Bridge Drive on Saturday morning, the winners were:—

First: H. Gover
C. Van Nickerk
Second: A. Fisher
F. Matthewman
Third: A. Wiltshire
L. Douglas

A Drive was held on Sunday morning for those not in the final of the Pairs Cup, and the winners this time were:—

First: W. Henry
Mr. Friday
Second: R. Wylie
T. Roden
Third: A. Wiltshire
L. Douglas

Sincere congratulations to Joe Walsh and Bill Shakspeare for a truly great performance.

On Sunday evening after the announcement of the winners, and presentation of prizes by Matron Ramshaw, Drummer also expressed everyone's thanks to Matron and her staff for their splendid work on our behalf, and presented Matron with a bouquet of flowers with our good wishes.

Our Annual General Meeting takes place on Saturday, December 6th, 2 o'clock for 2.15, and Mr. A. D. Iloyds has kindly promised to take the chair. H. G.

Indoor Section

A Dance was held on November 3rd at the Victory Club, Marble Arch, at the

request of Club members. I am happy to say that it was very well supported.

The Sir Arthur Pearson competitions for Waltz and Foxtrot were competed for and the winners were:

Waltz: E. Carpenter and partner.

Foxtrot: Jerry Lynch and partner.

The judge for the competition dances was Miss Margaret Thompsett, A.I.S.T.D., who very kindly came along for these events, and later presented the prizes.

Ron Bell and his Orchestra provided the music. Mr. Bob Willis was, as usual, very helpful, and all in all, it was a very successful evening.

The Sir Arthur Pearson Finals for Cribbage, Darts and Dominoes will take place at Headquarters on November 22nd.

C. J. W.

Outdoor Section

On October 18th the first road walk of the season was held in Regent's Park over a five mile course.

Eleven St. Dunstaners started in a match with the Metropolitan Police, with five aside to count. The race was won by Bill Miller, in the record time for a St. Dunstaner of 43 min. 35 sec. Handicap prizes were won by Tommy Denmead, Bill Miller and Alf. Bradley respectively. The fastest loser's prize, which was given by Mr. Shooter, a very faithful supporter of the walking section, was won by Charlie Williamson. The St. Dunstan's team beat the Metropolitan Police by eight points.

Stewart Craig, from New Zealand, is our latest member, and we are all very happy to have him with us. We hope he enjoyed his first race and we all wish him good walking in the future.

Sir Neville Pearson had hoped to start the Walk but unfortunately he was prevented from doing so and a lady reporter from the *News of the World* took over in his place. Sir Neville and Lady Pearson, however, presented the prizes later at the Club.

The Walking Section welcomes any new enthusiasts who would like to join them.

C. J. S.

Amended List of Dates for Future Walks

7 miles—December 6th.
10 „ —January 24th.
7 „ —February 14th.
12 „ —March 7th.
15 „ —April 11th.

The Girls

(Men's Point of You)

Hello, girls, how do you do?

So nice to have you in "Review."

We doff our hats. Bravo! Encore!

Hallelujah, give us more.

You, Dot, down in Zimmerzet,

Is your baby toddling yet?

Is Hubby eating up his chappies?

Does he help you with the nappies?

If you wish to do a play,

Call in Freddie Westaway.

Ever-ready Freddie's fit

Just the man to baby-sit.

Come tell us all, you lovely wimmin,

Eating well? Or are you slimming?

One of you said with a groan,

"Oh, Gen, I'm close on thirteen stone,

The girl you knew in Stretton days

Has broadened out in many ways.

If I get stouter, as big I'll be

As blacksmith 'neath the chestnut tree."

Tell the lads how you are faring,

Latest hair-do. What you're wearing,

Colour of your overall,

Those pairs of, ah! but that is all,

On second thoughts it's not unwise

To ask the colour of your eyes,

We know you wear them, so who cares

If worn singly or in pairs.

A few of you no doubt, I guess

Have scrounged a pair to match each dress,

So come on, Violet, Marion, all,

Give out with that clear clarion call,

Winnie, Barbara, Ann, Maureen,

Rattle up that tambourine.

Rinse your mouth of crumbs of crumpet,

Shoot the works, come, blow your trumpet.

Come on Sadie, Beryl, Gwen,

Tell us more, give us the "gen,"

Call in Brenda, Thelma, Sally,

Why not form a Corps de Ballet?

We'd love to see St. Dunstan's Belles

Doing "Can-Can" at Sadler's Wells.

Glamorous Blodwyn sure would make

The ballerina in "Swan Lake."

So drop your bridge and dominoes,

Get cracking with those twinkling toes,

And while we watch you wish your frills,

We'll say there's gold in dem dar jills,

You lovely creatures, so sublime,

Hats off to you, you're mighty fine.

GEN.

The "Arcaid"

For nearly three years Mr. Andrew R. Cooper, an electrical engineer, of Liverpool, toiled hard and patiently, developing a machine that would enable anybody to talk to a deaf-blind person. Quite recently his invention reached completion and there appeared in public the first "Arcaid." The first three letters are his initials.

The "Arcaid" is a small, flat, rectangular machine, pocket size. On top there are keys set out like those of a typewriter; on one corner there is a raised block with six holes. Perhaps the most outstanding feature of the "Arcaid" is its simplicity to operate and understand. You simply depress the key required, and the letter shows itself in braille dots on the raised block. The machine has several other uses. A small roller can be slid into position on the raised block. A strip of braille paper, like that of a teleprinter, is inserted. Then a person with absolutely no knowledge of braille can write a braille message.

The machine has been tested on hundred of deaf-blind people and has proved highly successful. I am privileged to have an "Arcaid" for my own use. It has offered me many happy hours and gained for me many new friends. I have tested it on all types of people, ranging from a five-year-old child to a French visitor. Some may say that the "Arcaid" will hinder the learning of the manual, but that is perfectly untrue. For in truth the "Arcaid" has, and will enhance the learning of the manual. A 12-year-old lad, Bruce, whom I had never met before, asked if he might speak to me on the "Arcaid." We had a chat for about five minutes, then I taught him the manual. A week later I chanced to meet Bruce's mother. I learned that Bruce was so delighted at learning the manual that he went home and taught his mother and sister. I was having morning coffee in a cafe. My "Arcaid" which was on the table, attracted the attention of a fellow customer. He joined me and spoke on the machine. He was a naturalised Hungarian. There followed an interesting conversation on current affairs and art. Then I taught him the manual, which he learned in less than ten minutes. Just two examples.

The "Arcaid" needs no batteries or electricity. It is 100% mechanical.

WALLY THOMAS.

From All Quarters

T. Daborn, of Bexleyheath, won the Brighton and Hove Challenge Cup in the National Federation of Sea Anglers' Competition at Hastings on October 11th. There were 218 competitors in 57 boats and he had the heaviest bag of pouting—10lbs. 10ozs. In addition to the Cup he was given a medal and two silver Heat-master egg-cups.

★ ★ ★

Albert Hobson, of Hastings, late of the Commandos, had a place of honour at the ceremony at Spean Bridge, Inverness-shire, when the Queen Mother unveiled a memorial to all Commandos who gave their lives in World War II. It was a proud moment, too, for Albert when his old chief, Lord Lovat, slapped him on the back and said, "Glad you could manage it."

★ ★ ★

Fred Barratt, of West Ham, with his dog, Rex, surprised a man on his shop premises recently. The man ran away but was later charged with breaking in.

★ ★ ★

Maureen Lees won the first prize of four guineas in an essay contest recently organised by the Ritz Theatre, Birkenhead, in connection with a film showing there.

★ ★ ★

R. A. Fullard was the author of two reviews of books in the September issue of NEW ERA. The books reviewed were "Keep Your Head Up, Mr. Putnam," whose author was an American blinded civilian, and "I'll Be Seeing You," whose author, Henry Barry, was blinded in the war. Mr. Putnam's book dealt with his experiences in acquiring and handling his guide dog.

Royal Interest in St. Dunstan's Stand

Mrs. Alice Gimbriere, late of the W.R.N.S., represented St. Dunstan's this year at the War Disabled Ex-Servicemen's Exhibition and the Royal visitors have shown their great interest in Alice and the St. Dunstan's Stand. A most attractive photograph of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret talking to Alice appeared in the Press.

Pensions Reference in Commons

On Thursday, November 6th, in a brief debate on the Adjournment, which only lasts for half-an-hour, Sir Ian Fraser made the point that you could not confine any increase in war pensions to the limbless, and that, as you got older, all disabilities became more severe. The basic rate of war pensions now, he said, was inadequate having regard to the fall in the value of money.

The debate had been opened by Mr. C. J. Simmons, who was Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Pensions in the last Government. He had pleaded for increases for limbless men who, he said, felt their disabilities more and more as they got older. The Minister of Pensions, replying, said that all these matters were continuously under consideration.

News from Australia

From W. E. Cook, of Victoria, comes an interesting letter, dated August 9th. He writes:

"We hear that you have had your summer—and a fairly good one. Out here we are just about emerging from the winter, and it has been the worst of our experience. Rainy days for weeks on end, it seems, and chilly days and nights, but nothing near as severe as those I remember back in Britain. Flowers have their place out here. The geranium, which has to be raised under glass in Britain, thrives out here in the open, both winter and summer, and bears flower even during the former season. It seems to thrive under the most difficult conditions.

"The railways in Australia, with a few small exceptions, are all owned by the States in which they run, and cover vast areas with comparatively few passengers to carry. Each State railway out here gives every blinded ex-Serviceman or woman a free pass over the whole of the system, both for self and escort. In Victoria it is a first-class pass. Annually a pass for one journey inter-State is allowed, if required."

From Miss Pain

When Christmas comes this year I will be on the high seas en route for Australia, so I would like to take this opportunity to wish all my St. Dunstan's friends a joyous Christmas and all prosperity in the New Year.

DOROTHY PAIN.

"O Verry Light of Eyes that Ben Blinde"

In ordinary everyday literature the word "blind" is commonly used as an uncomplimentary adjective or adverb. This observation prompted me to investigate the Oxford Dictionary, and here follow some of the many meanings given therein:—

Blind.—Destitute of the sense of sight, whether by natural effects or deprivation.

Lacking in mental perception, discernment or foresight. Destitute of intellectual or spiritual life.

Undiscriminating for which no reason can be given—inconsiderate, heedless and reckless. Not possessing intelligence or consciousness. Acting without discernment.

To conceal or deceive.

Dim as opposed to bright or clear.

Having no opening for the admission of light.

(Note: Light also means Knowledge).

Numerous other applications describe a cover for a window, sails for a ship, blinkers for a horse, or aimless or purposeless lanes, streets or projects. "The blind side" is taken to be the unguarded or vulnerable side, also the unrepresentable or objectionable aspect.

This esteemed authority on the English language spends more than two pages translating "blind" to imply godlessness, immorality, intemperance, stupidity, imbecility, lunacy, futility, helplessness and hopelessness.

It appears that "blind" has been used for centuries by mentally lazy writers, to soften, or to add ambiguity, to the libellous implications of their descriptive efforts. Not least among such offenders are the editors of leading articles in the daily newspapers of to-day.

The use of another word to more specifically denote the loss or absence of the sense of sight, purely as a physical defect, is obviously highly desirable, and as "sightless" is adequately descriptive, resort to the classics in an effort to find something like "aplopic" is unnecessary. "Blind" could then be left to those who cannot think of a better way to describe an indiscriminate act or a damn fool, thus enabling the dictionary to mark it "obsolete" on its first meaning.

In this twentieth century when, thanks to such pioneers as the late Sir Arthur

Pearson and Mr. Armitage, and to those who still carry on the work so well founded, more has been done to emancipate the sightless than hitherto.

Among ourselves we distinguish between those who are sightless and those whose sight is partially affected as "totally blind" or "dims" and the "semi-sighted."

Referring back to the dictionary's first meaning, "destitute of sight," now put "totally" in front of "destitute" and it sounds perfectly horrifying.

I pass "dim" without comment.

"Semi-sighted" very appropriately describes a person whose optical vision is impaired or restricted. How very fortunate are they not to be indicated by such synonymous terms as "half-blind," "half-dim," or "half-wits."

If the sightless lead the sightless they will not fall into the ditch or over the cliff.

M. DELANEY.

Ecclesiastical

The Rev. G. E. Treglown, M.B.E., was heard on the B.B.C. Welsh Home Service last month when evening service was broadcast from his church in the Llanhilleth district of Monmouthshire.

The Rev. Michael Norman, recently curate at the church of St. Peter-in-Thanel, near Ramsgate, has sailed for South Africa, where he is to be assistant priest at St. Cyprian's Retreat, just outside Cape Town.

Canon W. G. Speight, who now has taken over a new parish at Braunstone, in Leicestershire, has discovered in one of his lovely old churches a stained glass window dedicated to St. Dunstan.

Some of the pews are dedicated to men who fell in the 1914 war and he has found one which is to the memory of a man in his old battalion.

National Laying Test, 1951-52

Final Report for the 48 weeks,
October 8th, 1951, to September 7th, 1952.

Pos'n.	Name	Test Score
1.	Gregory, T. D. ...	1084
2.	Jackson, G. C. ...	1040
3.	Webb, W. ...	1033
4.	Jarvis, A. ...	997
5.	Taylor, T. ...	977
6.	Holmes, P. ...	915
7.	Bagwell, P. ...	885
8.	Clarke, T. ...	629
Average per bird, 189.69		

Remembrance Festival

On the evening of Saturday, November 8th, a great audience gathered once again in the Royal Albert Hall, London, to pay homage to the memory of those who lost their lives in the two world wars. St. Dunstaners were among the audiences at the afternoon and evening Festivals.

The Queen and the Queen Mother, the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Margaret were welcomed by Sir Ian Fraser, President of the British Legion.

At nine o'clock, an unseen bugler sounded the Last Post and Sir Ian spoke the solemn exhortation, "They shall grow not old . . ." and there came the deep-voiced response, "We will remember them."

Then Reveille, and the smoky air of the great Hall was filled with the poppy petals that fluttered from the roof—more than a million and a half of them, representing the British lives lost in action from the first shot in Flanders down to the last casualty from Malaya and Korea.

There were among those old soldiers present that night some who had sung "Soldiers of the Queen" when it was new. Other songs, in which the Queen joined, were "Tipperary" and "Wish me luck as you wave me Goodbye."

Remembrance Day

At the Cenotaph in London the following Sunday morning, there was a good contingent of Old Contemptibles and St. Dunstaners, escorted by Mr. Bob Willis, with the British Legion Veterans' Parade. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the British Legion and from St. Dunstan's blinded ex-servicemen and women throughout the world.

In Belfast, a wreath was laid at the Cenotaph, Belfast City Hall, by Bill Rutledge on behalf of Irish St. Dunstaners.

Burma Star Association

The Romford Branch of the Burma Star Association have recently been in touch with us to suggest that any St. Dunstaners who served in the Burma Campaign now living in this district should contact them, if interested, at their Headquarters—R.U.S.C., Mawney Road, Romford, Essex.

The Headquarters of the Association is at 26 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, and we feel sure that Colonel F. L. Roberts, the Hon. Secretary, would be delighted to put any St. Dunstaner in touch with other Branches throughout the country.

World Population and Food

The rapid increase in the world population this century, plus the limited space for food production, have been the subject for much gloomy foreboding in recent years. There are grounds most assuredly for this glooming, but what about a bright side to the problem?

If, as we are led to believe, the food situation is chronic now, and population is rising at 20 to 25 millions annually, why do the statesmen of the world fail to emphasise the dangers to their respective peoples? Either the situation is in hand or it has not attained the degree of urgency for an immediate attempt at solution. Timing is the most important item in any action, and should the action be agreed too late in the campaign for food, it is well to remember that the ingenuity of man knows no bounds, and Nature only rarely fails to co-operate.

On the face of it, it seems that the well-flooded parts of the globe should now, or in the near future, be subjected to a reasonable stomachic discipline until the temporary embarrassment of food shortage is banished from the world. The object of this rationing would not be to feed the hungry masses of Asia and Africa better than they might beget further hungry masses, though in practice that is what would happen.

Famine, pestilence and war have been cancelled out as controllers of population by fast transport and medical science, and our modern ideas of the value of human life may prove to be an intolerable tummy-ache to our posterity, who can still rely on even faster transport and more scientific medical science.

It may never be necessary, but it seems an Agricultural Revolution must come to counteract two centuries of Industrial Revolution. Such a revolution could only be achieved by (a) iron discipline, or (b) mass comprehension of global food conditions, which rather rules it out as a practicable possibility. If the choice were either clean out pigsties, milk cows, till the soil or starve—or assemble cars, motor cycles, aeroplanes and starve, would it be so difficult to make up one's mind?

In conclusion, "Science got us in, Science gets us out, or we stay where we are, 'on t' ration'."

G. A. PRESTON.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR-EDITOR,

Braille Revision

My previous letter on this subject seems to have raised no blood pressure nor burst any seams.

I wonder if my fellow Braille purists (if there are any) realise to what extent the old principle has already been abandoned. This was, a generation ago, that as far as was practicable, inkprint should be faithfully followed. Here are some examples:

1. The exact similarity between capital and small letters.
2. Fresh paragraphs without new lines.
3. Omission of page headings.
4. Confusing combination of abbreviation and period stops, and sometimes the dropping altogether of the former.
5. The numbering of pages at the end of the first line of print.
6. The incorrect division of words by a hyphen.

When economy becomes more important than the matter with which it is concerned, then the farmer sows no wheat and the people starve.

Yours faithfully,

London, W.12.

DOUGLAS WARDEN.

Presentation to Miss Walker

All the physiotherapists who have been through the three houses—152, Broadhurst Gardens, Croyley, and No. 12—will have had a letter sent out on my behalf asking them to subscribe to the farewell present for Miss Walker. I am unknown to you, being a newcomer, but with the aid of the signatures on those letters, with the blessings of Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, and with the help of Miss Goole, we did very well. We managed to raise enough to buy "Johnny" a really lovely Elizabeth Arden make-up box and a nylon nightdress. She was given these at a small party held here this last Thursday, on her last night. She was terribly thrilled with her presents and on our behalf, Sir Ian proposed her health and happiness. She was very, very taken back, and we know how much she will be missed.

I want to thank you all for your support and hope you will be glad to know that the results made Miss Walker very happy, but sad at going.

PAUL B. BAKER.

Branded

Some few weeks ago I took a holiday at Ovingdean. Most delightful. When I arrived, I was shown to my room, and after unpacking found that about two hours would elapse before the next meal. Feeling grimy after my travel I thought I would take a bath. I did. You know these bathrooms at Ovingdean—about 6ft. square, the bath running along one side leaving a 6ft. by 4ft. drying ground. Facing the the door is a bench and along the wall facing the bath is a towel rail made out of a metal pipe through which flows hot water. The pipe stands out about 2 inches from the wall and about 30 inches from the floor. I did not notice the towel rail.

I dumped all my equipment upon the bench, filled the bath, got in and I wallowed. After some time I completed my bath and stepped out on to the drying ground. I grabbed my towel from the bench but in doing so I knocked down my collar studs. To avoid knocking my face on the bath, I took half a pace backwards and bent down to pick up the studs. There was a sizzling sound of hot metal on damp flesh and I thought I was shot. I leapt forward and went base over apex into the bath again, taking my towel with me. When I had recovered my equilibrium and examined my wound, I stepped out of the bath again, but now I had no towel upon which to dry myself, so I had to stand there to dry. Some time later when I had emerged from the bathroom, I ran into the orderly and I told him what had occurred. He remarked, "Well, you are a mug. You'd got a tongue in your head, hadn't you?" I replied, "Yes, I have, but I'm not a blinking contortionist."

Believe it or not, for the first four days of my holiday I was eating my meals off the mantelpiece and shall carry my cross for the rest of my days. What's that? Can I prove it? I could, but I hope I will not be called upon to do so.

I finish with a quotation from Bert Crabtree, "Has it ever happened to you?" Thetford.

B. A. HAMILTON.

[Any other incidents will be welcomed—amusing, embarrassing, or perhaps just as painful! The pain will be lessened by half a guinea for each one published.—ED.]

The Birmingham Swimming Gala

"The best so far!" "See you next September." "A grand afternoon."

From these remarks, made as we left Woodcock Street Baths it was obvious that we had had a successful Gala. The audience was splendid and deserved their sumptuous tea. The day began well. We had a particularly happy gathering for lunch. We had Red Cross transport to the Baths, where everything went smoothly. The standard of swimming was again very high.

We owe a great deal to the Leander Swimming Club, who not only provided us with Judges at this Gala, but who had offered us their help and friendship and hospitality every Tuesday evening throughout another swimming year.

Over sixty of us foregathered for tea, but the competitors were few, only eight swimming at all. Instead of swimming as teams from counties or districts, the competitors swam as individuals. The S.S. Individual Cup and the Challenge Trophy were not awarded, but there was great competition for the T.B. Cup, which again went to G. Stanley (Market Harborough) for an excellent performance and 21 points. D. Bingham, of Nottingham, also gave us who watched, great pleasure as he came second with 12 points.

We did miss the participation of our loyal London group, and we must arrange things so that we have their company next year. We had hoped also to welcome a team from the North, from Brighton, and from Wales (Cup-holders).

Would everyone please keep free the last Saturday but one in September next year when fixing up programmes. But let us know *now*, please, if that date is inconvenient and we will change it. The Bath for the next Gala will be booked soon.

Here are the full results:—

1 Length T.B.—1st, G. Stanley; 2nd, D. Bingham; 3rd, R. Craddock (Warrington).

1 Length Back Stroke—1st, G. Stanley; 2nd, G. Waterworth; 3rd, R. Craddock (Coventry).

Style Competition—1st, D. Bingham and G. Stanley; 3rd, G. Waterworth.

Plunging—1st, R. Craddock; 2nd, P. Spencer (Weston-super-Mare); 3rd, T. O'Connor (Birmingham).

Diving—1st, D. Bingham; 2nd, G. Stanley; 3rd, G. Waterworth.

Underwater Endurance—1st, T. O'Connor; 2nd, B. Bright (Birmingham).

Plate Diving—1st, G. Waterworth and G. Stanley; 3rd, J. Harris (Reading).

Do come next year and share the enjoyment. Birmingham Club will manage expenses somehow. P. A. FAIRHEAD.

By a coincidence, a letter from Walter Thornton, who is engaged on Welfare Work at Messrs. Cadbury's, of Birmingham, arrived by the same post as the above report of the Birmingham Gala. He writes: "I am wagging my two tails at the moment. The other night I presented four of our lads with their Bronze Medallion of the Royal Life Saving Society, and they all got through. I wonder if that is an idea for the London St. Dunstan's Swimming Club, if their swimmers are strong enough. (I say this because I should just curl up at the thought of taking my Bronze again. It nearly killed me sixteen years ago.)."

Well, swimmers, how about it?

Young St. Dunstaners

Leslie Jordan, Mitcham, is now a Graduate Member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers.

★ ★ ★

Little Lesley Vowles took certificates in all her classes at Gosport Dancing Festival and first prize in Baby Tap dancing. She is five!

★ ★ ★

Tommy Butler, Distington, who is a drummer and bugler now serving overseas with the Parachute Brigade, has been notified that he will be coming to England for the Coronation.

★ ★ ★

Margaret Frampton, Highams Park, who is a nurse, has passed her Hospital Final Examination and now qualifies for the Gold Medal.

Marriages

Mavis Whitthorn, Exeter, on November 1st, to A. G. Venn.

Robert David Edwards, Denbigh, on October 11th, to Miss Edna Evans.

Leonard Frampton, Highams Park, on September 6th, to Miss Helen Ruth Derwent

Ivy Fennell, Tooting, on June 28th, to Herbert Booth.

Barbara Thomas, Wakefield, on December 22nd last, to Aubrey Cartledge, at St. Andrew's, Wakefield. We regret that this has only just been brought to our notice.

Stanley Payne, on October 31st, at Cardiff, to Miss Barbara Luck, daughter of Mr. A. Luck, Liberal M.P. for Devonport, Tasmania.

Ovingdean Notes

September and October have been busy months here for, although the usual holiday season was ended still the number of St Dunstaners coming to Ovingdean remained high, so there was no lessening of the general activities both in the Home and so far as outside entertainments were concerned.

The coach drives, which always seem to be so very popular, have continued to be run twice weekly, and there have been Race Meetings to attend at Brighton, Fontwell Park, Lewes and Plumpton.

On 4th September a party of holiday-makers were entertained by the Sidley Welfare Community Association at the Pavilion, Bexhill, where the Mayor of Bexhill was the Guest of Honour. Later in the month another party went again to Bexhill, this time as the guests of the Sidley "Wednesday and Thursday Whist Players." On both these occasions the St. Dunstan's party was given a most friendly welcome and an invitation "to come again very soon." We hope this may prove possible.

Our good friend, Mr. Cheesman, held his first Dance of the season at The Arlington, Brighton, on Thursday, 25th September and this was, as always, thoroughly enjoyed by all those present.

Entertainments in the House during September included a first visit from the Portsmouth Orpheus Singer, a return visit from the United Services Military Band, a play-reading by some of the staff and a performance of "Bonaventure" by the St. Wilfrid Players. During October the Hove Light Orchestra gave a concert, and the Winter Darts Matches began with a team visiting the Shipwright Arms at Southwick, at the end of September. The Shooting Competitions are also being well supported. During October there were seven teams of three men each in the competition. Each team fired against another, making a total of 21 matches. Mr. Jarrold reports some of the keenest shooting since the rifle first came into use, and out of the 21 men competing no less than seven scored possibles. They were Messrs. J. Chisholm, S. Craig, J. Walton, R. Major, P. Walker, R. Osborne and M. Robinson. 49 out of a possible 50 now seems to be a thing of the past!

The result of the Team Events was a tie between Team 2 and Team 7 (each with

four wins). The aggregate score was totalled up and No. 2 Team scored 847 out of a possible 900. No. 7 Team scored 846 points. The prize for the best individual score was won by S. Craig, who scored 293 out of a possible 300. The runner-up was M. Robinson with 291 points.

Deaf Reunion at Ovingdean

The Annual Deaf Reunion was held here from October 9th to 14th and was attended by nine out of a possible twelve deaf St. Dunstaners. We were all extremely sorry that Wally Ruddock, Bill Jay and Ted Mills were not able to get along on this occasion.

The programme, which was as varied as possible, included a novel item of a trip to the Shoreham Aero Club. After a short flight, the party went on to have lunch at "The Sussex Pad."

During the Reunion Lady Fraser came down from London to meet the fellows and another pleasant surprise was the arrival of Miss Pain to spend a few hours with them.

The remainder of the programme included a coach drive, a day at the Races, a visit to West House, and the usual "Farewell Dinner" at Stroods Hotel with the Commandant and Matron Ramshaw.

Visit to Model Engineer Exhibition

On Tuesday, October 28th, a party of trainees from Ovingdean, with a number of staff escorts, were fortunate enough to visit the Model Engineer Exhibition at the New Horticultural Hall, London. Special facilities were made for the St. Dunstan's party to be admitted to the Exhibition prior to the admission of the general public on that day. This gave the attendants at the Exhibition a fine opportunity of taking the men round and giving the necessary explanations of some of the more interesting exhibits before the Hall became overcrowded for, on that day as on the others whilst the Exhibition was open, there was a very high attendance.

The trainees were very interested in all the various fine exhibits on show. There were, for example, many fine model sailing yachts, both racing and cruising types, and windjammers, barques, schooners and clippers, and many of these models the men were able to handle with much care. There was a particularly fine model of H.M.S. *Implacable*, and of the Barry Dock Lifeboat.

Next came a display of the smaller type of power boat, launches, and planes. Some of these were radio-controlled, and there was a great deal of interest shown in two fine hydroplanes.

From models of sailing craft, metal and marine engines, the party came upon models of gas, petrol, diesel-electric and steam engines, and then to models of land vehicles, such as delivery vans and motor cars. In this section many were intrigued with an exceptionally fine model of a Sunbeam car and racing cars, many of which were radio-controlled. From cars to trains. Here again the models were of very fine workmanship and included such items as "The Rocket" and "The Royal Scot."

The time passed all too quickly for our men, who were only able to spend the morning at the Exhibition. They were all loud in their praise for the very kind co-operative way in which the attendants at the Exhibition and the organisers allowed them to gain the utmost benefit from the short time at their disposal.

A Louis Braille Medal

Through the kindness of Tom Milligan, we learn that the French Mint has this year struck a medal to commemorate the Centenary of Louis Braille, and Tom has presented one of these medals to Sir Ian Fraser.

The medal is of bronze. On one side is a profile in relief of Louis Braille, with his name and dates around the rim. On the reverse side of the medal, in braille as well as in ordinary print, are the words "Et La Lumiere Fut." (And There Was Light.)

We understand that the cost of the medals is about 15s. each. There are certain currency difficulties which have to be overcome, but if any St. Dunstaners is interested in obtaining one of the medals we will make the necessary enquiries.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. T. Smith, of Billingham, thanks all St. Dunstaners and staff for the kind letters of sympathy she has received.

Placements

F. Buttery, as a capstan operator with Messrs. Slack and Barr, Ltd., Kegworth, near Derby; D. Bingham, of Nottingham, as a capstan lathe operator with Raleigh Industries; S. Milewski, with Messrs. G.I.B. Precision, Cirencester, temporarily on deburring but later as capstan lathe operator.

Births

COUPLAND.—On October 23rd, to the wife of R. Coupland, of Hull, a daughter.

MARSHALL.—On October 12th, to the wife of J. Marshall, of Horden, Co. Durham, a daughter—Glenys.

MCCARTNEY.—On October 26th, to the wife of H. McCartney, of Belfast, a daughter.

Marriages

MAJOR.—On October 18th, 1952, Ray Major to Miss Jean Avis, at Hove, Sussex.

SHEPHERD—COLE.—On September 30th, Alf Shepherd to Barbara Cole, late V.A.D. at 8 Park Crescent.

WAREHAM—MICHELL.—On October 4th, F. Wareham, of Dorset, to Miss Marion Michell.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

HARE.—To W. Hare, of Cheltenham, whose mother died on July 27th.

MOORE.—To Mr. and Mrs. G. Moore, of Blackpool, whose baby was still-born.

NEWTON.—To J. Newton, of Audenshaw, who has lost his mother at the age of 82.

★ ★ ★

Their friends will hear with deep regret that Mrs. R. Wylie's father died on September 22nd.

Grandfathers

J. W. Gill, Manchester (for the third time); S. C. Loram, Brixham (eleventh grandchild); T. Ashe, Lancing, twin grandchildren—a boy and a girl for Sylvia; D. O. Evans, Llansamlet.

Golden Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. T. Allen, of South Hetton, who celebrated their golden wedding on October 23rd, and to Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Stringer, of Manchester, who celebrated their anniversary last June.

Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. W. Robinson, London, N.4, October 23rd; Mr. and Mrs. D. C. R. Cole, Gloucester, September 8th.

Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. J. Irvine, Maryhill, Glasgow, November 1st.

"In Memory"

Private Walter Cromwell, 5th Gloucestershire Regiment

We record with deep regret the sudden death of W. Cromwell, of Gloucester. He was fifty-eight. Wounded at Roumain in May, 1915, he came to St. Dunstan's almost at once and trained as a boot repairer, but since 1928 he had worked exclusively as a bookmaker.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Cromwell who pays high tribute to her husband's courage in his last illness.

A wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral.

Sergeant George Taylor, 9th Royal Welsh Fusiliers

It is with deep regret that we record the death of George Taylor, who since 1947 had been a permanent resident at West House.

When he came to us in April, 1916, he trained in boot repairing and mat-making, and later in netting. His death at West House on October 23rd occurred very suddenly.

Wreaths from his Brighton friends and from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades were among the flowers at the funeral.

Sergeant William Edward Hiscock, The Welch Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of W. E. Hiscock, of Westcliff-on-Sea, who was admitted to St. Dunstan's as recently as September, 1952.

An old soldier at the outbreak of the First World War (he enlisted in November, 1908), he was wounded in France in 1915 when he lost an eye. His remaining eye was also damaged but not until recently was his case brought to our notice. It was then necessary for him to be admitted to Roehampton Hospital and he died on October 17th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and grown-up family.

Sergeant C. Ross, 1/5th East Lancashire Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of C. Ross, of Padiham, which occurred at the home of his sister on October 10th.

He served with his regiment from June, 1914, until October 1918. He had been wounded at Bapaume and he came to St. Dunstan's on the day of his discharge from the Army. He trained in boot repairing and mat-making, but for some time he had been a sick man. His death, nevertheless, was not expected.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers at the funeral. Our deep sympathy is extended to his family.

William Bertram Stewart, 7th Battalion, Australian Imperial Forces

It is with deep regret that we have heard of the death of W. B. Stewart, of Thornbury, Victoria, Australia. He died on August 23rd.

He served with the Australian Imperial Forces during the First World War. His sight failing gradually, he was admitted to the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association five years ago.

Percy William Powell, King's Shropshire Light Infantry and Royal Flying Corps

With deep regret we record the death of P. W. Powell, of Hereford.

Serving first with the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, and later as Third Air Mechanic with the Royal Flying Corps, he came to St. Dunstan's in 1926. He worked as a farmer in a small way, but of late years he had been a very sick man, and netting was all that he could undertake.

He had been looking forward to a visit to Brighton, and his ticket had, in fact, been bought, but he died very suddenly at his home on October 19th, just before.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and large family, and in particular to his son, who is in hospital.

Gunner Charles Thomas Richard Brooks, Royal Field Artillery

With deep regret we have to record the death of C. T. R. Brooks, of Hartfield, Sussex, at the age of fifty-eight.

He was wounded in France in November, 1917, and he was admitted to St. Dunstan's in March of the following year. He was trained first as a boot repairer and later as a poultry-keeper, and he continued in the last occupation until ill-health forced him to reduce his stock.

He had been ill for some time, and his death occurred in hospital on November 10th, following an operation.

A wreath from the Chairman was among the many flowers.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family, to whom our very sincere sympathy is extended.

Driver Joshua W. Bullock, Royal Field Artillery

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. W. Bullock, of Kemp Town, Brighton. He was sixty-three.

Enlisting in January, 1915, he was discharged from the Army in November, 1917, but it was not until 1926 that he came to us. He then trained in basket-making, and later, took up shop-keeping. This he followed for about seven years, when ill-health forced him to retire.

He was admitted to hospital, but he died there on November 11th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Notable St. Dunstaner Dies

CAPTAIN William Appleby, O.B.E., died on Saturday, 29th November, at the age of 73. He was a St. Dunstaner very widely known and esteemed amongst ex-Servicemen in all parts of the Commonwealth. This was because he was one of the founder members of the British Legion, and of the British Empire Service League, the body which brings into one federation all the general ex-Service organisations in the Commonwealth and Empire countries. William Appleby wore the sixth of the British Legion badges issued, and apart from being a founder member was during the whole of the life of the Legion, until he retired last year, an elected member of the National Executive Council. No other man held this record.

Over the years, William Appleby helped us very much indeed in our relationship with the British Legion and in 1928 he joined the Council of St. Dunstan's as their representative. He was greatly beloved by the rank and file and was a familiar figure at all the British Legion annual conferences.

After the first war and his recovery from the early shock of being blinded, he became closely associated with the early organisation of the Economic League and was its Organising Secretary for some time. He was also founder of the North East Coast Region of this important national organisation and was a member of the Central Council. It was for the Northern Area of the British Legion, his base of operations being at Newcastle-on-Tyne, that he stood as National Executive member.

William Appleby was a good talker, full of stories and reminiscences, and a firm friend, and there must be thousands throughout the ex-Service movement who have been inspired by his gallant attitude towards his disability and helped by his friendly counsel and advice.

On the Council of St. Dunstan's he contributed a wide experience and a deep sympathy as well as an understanding of the needs and aspirations of ordinary folk.

He had spent his whole life in the Army in the Lancashire Fusiliers and saw service at home and abroad in India, Morocco and Gibraltar.

All the members of St. Dunstan's and of our Council and of the staff will feel they have lost a good friend in William Appleby, and will extend deep sympathy to his widow and members of his family.

Christmas Thoughts

1902-1914. That was twelve years between two wars. 1918-1939. That was twenty-one years. 1945-? Who knows how long? The last war was more devastating and exhausting than ever before; the realisation of the appalling destruction of war is wider than ever; the facing of reality and preparation for defence is more active than ever before. Perhaps these facts lend hope for the future. I pinpoint these dread thoughts in order to emphasise my belief that the year which is approaching its end may mark a phase in world history. Whereas a year or so ago many said war was imminent, we may now say with a fair degree of certainty that war seems less likely after all.

It is my belief that 1953 will justify our preparedness, vindicate the nation's judgment that security varies directly with strength, and that accordingly we shall be even nearer to a settled and peaceful world order at the end of 1953 than we are to-day; let us all hope and pray that this prophecy will come true.

If my belief in this tendency is well founded, then as the new year progresses we may expect to begin to beat some of our swords into ploughshares. This means some diminution in our rearmament effort and offers the opportunity of some progress towards a better life, for obviously we can all live better if we make the things we need rather than the things that are needed for war.

But the process may be one of adjustment and it may require patient courage to await the ripening of the fruit.

I expect a year of some changing of occupation, a year of increased capital expenditure in order to fit ourselves the better to make our living in the world markets, and a fall in prices.

Labour, management and capital have all done well during the year that has passed, subordinating their keenest personal interests to the well-being of the community. If this spirit continues, 1953 may well prove to be a year during which the tide turns, and although we may not enjoy to the full the fruits of our abstinence and sacrifice, we may yet be able to see more clearly that it has been worthwhile and that better times lie ahead.

It is in the belief that this rash forecast of the future may not prove to be too wrong that I commend it to my St. Dunstan's friends. Lady Fraser and I will think of you and yours all over the world and wish you a happy Christmas and the best of good luck in the New Year.

IAN FRASER.

From All Quarters

G. Rignall, of Palmers Green, has passed the examination for Home Teachers of the Blind, with honours in Braille.

★ ★ ★

F. A. Stringer, of Manchester, who is seventy-five and has just come under St. Dunstan's care, has been elected President of the Boy's Brigade. It is a tribute to his fine character and cheerfulness under the double handicap of deafness and blindness.

★ ★ ★

Maureen V. Lees was awarded Certificates of Merit at the National Weaving Competition—the first of its kind—at Central Hall, Westminster.

★ ★ ★

Canon W. G. Speight gave an inspiring address at a recent service organised on behalf of St. Dunstan's at Wymesfold Parish Church. The Mayor and Mayoress of Loughborough were among those present.

It has been a very good year for John Lasowski, now living in France. At the beginning of May he was awarded the French Military Medal; on June 16th his little son, Michel Nikola, was born; and now comes another letter saying that John has been decorated with the Order of the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.

Congratulations, John.

★ ★ ★

W. Watkinson, who is in the inspection department of Leyland Motors, Ltd., has been awarded £2 for an idea he evolved in making his fixed gauge more efficient.

★ ★ ★

E. Denny, who incidentally celebrated his 49th wedding anniversary on November 24th, writes that, with Mrs. Denny, he attended the Memorial Service at St. Mary's Cathedral, Johannesburg, for Mrs. Chadwick Bates. Also present were Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Nicolson, "Higgo," and Terence Denny. Edward Denny is Life Vice-President, South Africa Legion, B.E.S.L., Pretoria Branch.

London Club Notes

The Committee of the London Club wish all members a very happy Christmas and lots of good luck in 1953.

The Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held at Headquarters on January 16th, at 7.30 p.m.

It is hoped that all members of the London Club will make a special effort to attend.

Bridge.—We could not hold our Annual General Meeting on December 6th, as arranged; owing to fog only a handful of members were able to be present. The meeting is now to be held on Saturday, January 10th, at 2.15 p.m. sharp, and the chair will be taken by Mr. A. D. Lloyds, as before.

In the London Business Houses competition, P. Nuyens' team has to date played five matches, winning two, drawing one and losing two. J. Fleming's team has played three matches so far, but have not yet been successful.

H. GOVER.

Indoor Section

Sir Arthur Pearson Cup Competition Results

<i>Darts T.B.:</i>	Winner	C. Williamson
	Runner-up	B. Ingrey
<i>Darts S.S.</i>	Winner	W. Bishop
	Runner-up	J. Fleming
<i>Dominoes:</i>	Winner	B. Ingrey
	Runner-up	G. Brown
<i>Cribbage:</i>	Winner	C. J. Walker
	Runner-up	S. Webster
<i>Aggregate Whist</i>	72 hands	
	Winner	P. Ashton (502 tricks)

The Finals took place at Headquarters on November 22nd. We were very pleased to welcome Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Lloyds, who came along to present the prizes, and whose friendly words to the winners and to the Club rounded off a very successful evening.

As a sequel to the grand support on the occasion of the last dance, I am very happy to announce that the next dance will be held at the Victory Club, Marble Arch, on Friday, February 20th. I hope that all our dancing friends will give us their support again. More details next month, but meanwhile book this date, February 20th.

C. J. WALKER.

Outdoor Section

On November 15th the Walking Club held its six miles walking race round Regent's Park. There were nine starters. It was a very cold and wet day but this did not dampen the spirits of those concerned. Joan Gilbert, the television announcer, started the Walk and afterwards presented the prizes at the Club. The race was won by Bill Miller and the handicap prizes went to Stan Tutton, Charles Stafford and Dennis Fleisig respectively. The fastest loser's prize was won by the scratch man, Bill Miller. There was also a prize for the walker whose time showed the best improvement on his previous walk over the same distance and this was won by Tommy Denmead. Unfortunately, Tommy Gaygan was unable to walk owing to a poisoned heel. Hard luck, Tom!

C. J. STAFFORD.

St. Dunstan's 6 Mile Walk Regent's Park, 15th November, 1952

<i>Order of Finish</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>All.</i>	<i>H^p Time</i>	<i>H^p Pos</i>
1. W. Miller	52.56	Scr.	52.56	6
2. C. Williamson	53.56	1.00	52.56	7
3. A. Brown	55.21	3.10	52.11	4
4. S. Tutton	57.36	8.05	49.31	1
5. T. Denmead	58.29	5.15	53.14	8
6. A. Bradley	59.15	6.40	52.35	5
7. C. Stafford	59.40	8.20	51.20	2
8. L. Dennis	61.35	8.05	53.30	9
9. D. Fleisig	65.32	13.55	51.37	3

Handicap:—1st S. Tutton; 2nd C. Stafford; 3rd D. Fleisig; Fastest Loser, W. Miller; Most Improved, T. Denmead.

Golden Wedding

Congratulations to Mrs. and Mrs. A. E. Coman, of Dunswell, Hull, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on November 20th. The W.V.S. Darby and Joan Club gave them a wonderful party. Sitting beside the happy couple were the "bridesmaid" and "page boy" of fifty years ago.

★ ★ ★

L. Jackson, of Heswall, celebrated his ruby wedding on August 11th, a fact which was noted in the Braille "Review" but inadvertently missed in the printed issue. Our apologies, and congratulations, if somewhat belated.

Placement

T. Denmead, as a telephonist with Graphic Reproductions, Ltd., Borough Road, S.E.1.

London Reunion

On Wednesday, November 26th, the London Reunion was held at the Seymour Hall. Bad weather conditions earlier in the evening caused a smaller attendance than usual. The weather was also responsible for the non-arrival of the band instruments until some time after their players had arrived. Nevertheless it was an enjoyable meeting. Sir Neville Pearson and Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were among those present.

In Memory of Sir Arthur

Services to the memory of our Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., were held on December 7th, at the Chapel at Ovingdean and at West House. Sir Neville Pearson and Mr. Nigel Pearson attended both Services, which were conducted by the Rev. C. G. S. Oliver, a St. Dunstaner of the First World War. Sir Neville Pearson read the Lessons.

On December 9th, the 31st anniversary of the day on which Sir Arthur Pearson died, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser went, with a party of St. Dunstaners, to Hampstead Cemetery, where a wreath was laid "in affectionate and grateful remembrance from the war-blinded men and women of the Empire, 1914-18 and 1939-45." The St. Dunstaners in the party were Messrs. Andrew Carrick, of St. John's Wood, F. Rhodes, of Brighton, and A. Smith, of Wembley. They were escorted by Mr. T. Watson.

Thirty Years Ago

From "St. Dunstan's Review," December, 1922.

"Our Memorial Service in honoured memory of Sir Arthur was held in the big Lounge at Headquarters on Saturday, the 9th instant . . .

"It would be hard to attempt to describe the service and atmosphere—everybody was so deeply moved, and even though one year had passed it was almost impossible to realise that he had indeed left us . . .

"In his address, the Rev. Harold Gibb paid a deep and sincere tribute to Sir Arthur's wonderful personality . . . if Sir Arthur could send his men a message to-day he felt it could be summed up in the following words:

"If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixtyseconds'worth of distance run,

Yours is the earth—and everything
that's in it,

And what is more, you'll be a man,
my son!"

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I have heard the view expressed, and it has occurred to me, that "our" Chapel at Ovingdean might be improved by having stained glass windows. The view has also been expressed that the Chapel does not lend itself to adornment of this kind as it is too modern. Personally, I am all in favour of stained glass windows. If this suggestion should be approved and adopted, such windows could be dedicated in memory of such noble personages as Sir Arthur, Miss Thelluson, Miss Boyd-Rochfort, and others from time to time.

As regards Braille. A lot has been written about contractions in Braille, but I do not remember hearing or reading anything about the size and packing of Braille literature. In my opinion the shape and size of St. Dunstan's "Nuggets" is ideal. It is easy to cope with for reading either in the home or in a train, and can be put through most letter boxes without damaging the Braille characters. As opposed to this, take the "Braille Mail," "National News Letter," "St. Dunstan's Review" and "Progress." All these periodicals are rolled as tight as human ingenuity can devise with the result that the first two mentioned, weekly papers are crammed through the letter box and all four are made more difficult to read owing to the method of packing—which is not very helpful or encouraging to beginners in the art of Braille reading. The "Braille Science Journal" is despatched in a large envelope, flat, and is therefore much easier to read.

Yours sincerely,

Ovingdean.

FRANK A. RHODES.

DEAR EDITOR,

Two or three months ago Sir Ian said in the REVIEW that he had visited Church Stretton this summer, and that "Belmont" had been turned into a guest house. Sir Ian will forgive me, I know, if I correct that impression.

Mr. Sanders, the Town Clerk, bought "Belmont" from St. Dunstan's and lives there himself. They have turned part of the house into flats and do *not* take guests. I stayed there this summer, as the Sanders family are friends of mine.

I feared perhaps St. Dunstaners might write for accommodation for summer holidays.

Dover, Kent.

Yours sincerely,

KATHLEEN BEAUFOY.

I Remember

Our invitation last month for St. Dunstaners to send in remembered incidents, painful, embarrassing, or amusing, has had a good response. Here is a selection of some of those received. Each earns 10/6 for the sender.

With Apologies to Miss Reynolds

During my long years of work as a teacher in our community, many have been the amusing, and sometimes embarrassing incidents. For instance, there was the man who, writing to his wife, addressed her as "My dead wife," the one who got "B" for "T" making belegraph for telegraph, and many others. But the one I select as touching classic heights occurred at West House when that home of delightful and happy memories was used as our training centre. In those days the old Quiet Lounge (scene of many a good story and interesting debate) was taken over during the day as the Braille Room and occupied by Mrs. Broughton and Miss Reynolds, on Braille, with myself on type-writing. One day, Miss Reynolds, who was beloved by all who came to her for tuition, but could only pronounce her "Th" as "F," was giving Jack Illingsworth a writing lesson; having finished dictating, she took the paper to check it. Then the fun commenced. "You've made a mistake here." "Weere?" demanded Jack in his broad Yorkshire. "Here. I said frew it and you've written fruit." "Ar," said Jack, "tha said fru-it and ah've written fru-it." "No, no, I said, 'frew it, frew it frough the window.'" "Na tha torking! Tha shoul'a said that at first!"

When order had been restored, and Tommy Dickenson had been helped from the floor where he had collapsed in convulsions, the incident ended with a perfect bi-lingual understanding between Yorkshire and London.

The moral—sounds don't always convey that which is meant.
Ovingdean.

T. ROGERS.

Little but Good

When on holiday at Ovingdean, a friend and I were walking on the pier when we suddenly heard in front of us from quite low a childish voice, but rather reminiscent of Wee Georgie Wood.

He told us that he always looked after blind people. I took his little hand, as did my friend, and we told him we thought he was a good little soul and thanked him. We strolled together to the end of the pier and then I told him we must say goodbye for we were going in to the bar for a drink. He then said he would show us the way to the bar and, when he had done so, we each sought to put some coppers into his hand. But we were amazed to hear him say, "I don't want the pennies, thank you, but I don't mind coming in with you two and having a pint with you. I'm old enough to be your grandfather—75 years old!"

We took the old chap in with us and he told us that he never grew taller than the height of a nine-year old and that his voice had never broken. However, with these handicaps, he was a most cheerful old chap, and a good companion.

West House,
Brighton.

PERCY BOLTON.

Travel Experience

Recently I had to take a train journey. Have you ridden on our trains lately? Aren't they slow? The train I caught must have been the slowest train in England, I think. It was one of those non-corridor, stop-at-every-station, pick-flowers-on-the-way sort of train that one sometimes reads about and never hopes to ride in. When I arrived at my destination I had sat so long with my legs crossed that I had pins and needles in one leg and the other leg was dead up to the knee. When I stumbled out on to the platform I bumped into a female porter and I said, "Excuse me, where's the...?" and before I could finish the sentence, she replied, "Straight on. Right at the end of the platform." Most helpful. The puzzling part of it all is, "How did she know that I wanted the enquiry office?"

Thetford.

B. A. HAMILTON.

Hanging On!

Whilst staying at Blackpool during the war, a Sister took Dick Williams and myself out. We chose to go to Stanley Park and got talking in the second tram; we were suddenly brought to earth and jumped up, just as the tram stopped with a jerk, throwing us off our balance. I grabbed at anything overhead and got an

electric light bulb, which came off in my hand. Whilst I was fumbling to replace this, somebody was trying to push past me. When finally we got off the tram, the Sister explained that Dick had also grabbed at something to save himself falling, but in his case he got the cord that rings the bell, and hung on to it!

Southwick. G. FALLOWFIELD.

An Enjoyable Journey

Those St. Dunstaners who were at Church Stretton will remember that the journey back from Shrewsbury took a good 45 minutes—in fact, a journey which could be boring if you had nobody to talk to. This afternoon then I was glad when a well-spoken gentleman struck up a conversation immediately on leaving Barker Street terminus.

We chatted amiably about this and that, and during the course of the conversation he got on to talking about the yachts his father used to own and the journeys he had made in them.

Learning that I had been brought up in North Shropshire, the gentlemen seemed delighted when he discovered that I remembered the annual British Legion carnival in the little market town where I had lived. I did indeed vaguely recollect seeing someone dressed up as an Indian Rajah, collecting funds during the actual procession, and my companion was enthusiastic about the many functions he had attended in aid of various charities. Knowing that I was a St. Dunstaner, he charged me to ask Matron if she was agreeable to let him help in organising a whist drive or a fancy-dress dance in aid of St. Dunstan's.

Meantime the Midland Red rolled on until at last we pulled up at the Fountain in Church Stretton. I admit that I was a bit surprised when my companion left me rather hurriedly, but when a St. Dunstan's V.A.D. came forward on seeing me alight from the bus, I proceeded to tell her of my travelling companion's offer to help St. Dunstan's. Imagine my mortification when she said: "I hope he didn't bother you too much, Bob. He comes from the local private mental home, and his mania is dressing up in fancy clothes." Anyway, the journey home had passed very quickly, but we didn't have that fancy-dress dance at Longmynd . . .

R. A. FULLARD.

All Passengers Ashore

It happened way back in 1937, when I was aged 15. I was a bellboy on a Cunard liner and, as this was my first trip to sea, I was feeling the importance of the occasion deeply. There was I all rigged up in my bellhop's uniform, resplendent in my navy blue and lots of little brass buttons. It was sailing day and less than an hour before casting off for the voyage to New York. My job was to stand at the reception desk near the Purser's Office and try to be helpful to the passengers as they came aboard.

Hitherto I had not been further afield than a trip across the Mersey but, carried away by the excitement of the occasion and my beautiful white gloves, I began to assume a rather superior air towards these landlubbers of passengers who were so obviously impressed by anyone who even slightly resembled ship's crew. "This is the life for me," I thought, "any man with self respect should be a sailor." Looking loftily up from my 5ft. 3in. into the faces of bewildered travellers, I condescended to show them to "A" deck or "B" deck, or whatever they wanted. I was still rather vague as to which was port and starboard, but I think I managed to bluff my way through. One dear old lady asked me if I thought she would be seasick and I said I was afraid she would.

Of course, all this swelling up of my ego was only putting the finishing touches to the scaffold on which my pride was to hang. The climax came when a senior steward thrust a huge gong into my gloved hand, complete with striker. It was just too good to be true. I was actually the person who was going to warn everybody that the ship was about to sail. My spirits soared as I remembered in films I had seen how a bellboy had gone around bellowing for all visitors to leave the ship. I gulped, took the glistening brass gong in my left hand and proceeded along the alleyways declaring with the voice of authority that the time had come.

I noticed, however, that the people were looking at me oddly and even anxiously. I took this for respect and awe, and banged and shouted even more loudly. Curiously enough wherever I went I left people standing in groups talking animatedly. Old ladies were screaming, strong men were panicking. There was a decided

tendency for most of these landlubbers to make their way towards the gangway, even some of the people I had assumed were bound for America. At last, having completed to the best of my limited knowledge, the circuit around the passengers' accommodation, I arrived back at the Purser's office. I beheld an amazing scene there. The Purser and his three assistants were besieged by a mob of people all asking questions at the same time. Suddenly I was grasped firmly by the front of my new tunic and shaken like a rat by someone I took to be at least an admiral.

The words he said still echo down the long lanes of my memory. In full view of dozens of passengers and officials, he provided me with a moment which is embarrassing to me even to this day. When the strangely disturbed man with the purple features had put me down and had run out of adjectives, it was then that I realised what I had been calling out to all and sundry for the past ten minutes or more. "All passengers ashore, all passengers ashore."

GEORGE ELLIS.

Young St. Dunstaners

Brian Hold has been accepted for transfer from Yeovil Technical College to the Westland Aircraft Company School for Aeronautical Design, a coveted honour for it offers great opportunities.

A. H. Singleton's schoolboy son is a keen fisherman, and at Skegness and District Angling Association dinner, he received a third prize in the handicap and a third in the boy's section.

Wren Air Mechanic Olive Coates (New Longton) has been awarded a Proficiency Certificate, having attained highest possible standard during training.

Terry Brooks, Bedford, has won his second fifteen colours and cap; he already has his full swimming colours.

To Sportsmen

St. Dunstan's athletes in the Chelmsford area are invited to get into touch with Mr F. A. Bowen, of the Chelmsford Athletic Club, 119 Swiss Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex, if they are interested in meeting fellow athletes of the district.

The Reporter Works—Even on Holiday

The following article appeared recently in the *Newspaper World*. We think it will interest St. Dunstaners. Mr. Alan Pitt Robbins, its author, is now the News Editor of *The Times*; he is also a member of the Executive Council of St. Dunstan's.

★ ★ ★

I think that the first thing a young reporter must remember is that whatever his terms of engagement may be, he should regard himself as on call at any time. If a story breaks out on his doorstep he should never argue that it was his day off or that he was on holiday.

I remember the case of a distinguished dramatic critic, who is no longer with us, who went straight home after the curtain had been rung down in the middle of the first performance of a play because of a serious disturbance in the gallery. When the night news editor tried to remonstrate he merely replied: "My good man, I am not a reporter." He certainly was not.

Two experiences of my own will illustrate the point I wish to make and, strangely enough, they are both concerned with fire.

In my early days as a reporter in Leeds, when I received a salary of ten shillings a week, I spent as many of my week-ends as possible with friends of my parents at Menston-in-Wharfedale, where I was able to catch up on some of the meals I had missed during the week.

I was out walking on the Sunday morning when I saw heavy smoke coming from the large mental asylum located in the village. The result was that I was the first journalist who got inside the building and I still think that I did a good morning's work, particularly as I cut my week-end short and returned to Leeds.

I would only add for the benefit of other reporters that it is much easier to get into than out of a mental institution. I entered by the front door, but I made a most undignified retreat by scaling a high wall. By that time the police were in control and when I explained to them that I was a reporter it seemed to confirm their worst impressions, for I was ordered to remain for questioning.

My second holiday task happened while I was on *The Times*. Just after Christmas my wife and I were travelling by train to

St. Austell in Cornwall to spend a few days with friends. On the journey a passenger in the next compartment asked me whether he ought to alight at Par or St. Austell for the Carlyon Bay Hotel.

Early the next morning my host woke me with the news that the hotel was on fire and I remembered that my fellow traveller was Mr. Te Water, the then High Commissioner for South Africa. I dashed to the hotel, found Mr. Te Water, reintroduced myself and got a grand story of the fire out of him.

Another stroke of fortune was that the chief of the local fire brigade was a relative of my host and probably no reporter ever collected his story quite so easily.

By the middle of the afternoon there was a column story in Printing House Square and an hour or two later a spool of film taken by my wife also arrived.

I remember that we published a good picture of the burning hotel and I wonder if Mr. Te Water still keeps the picture I sent to him, which we did not publish, of the High Commissioner for South Africa dressed in pyjamas and overcoat.

At any rate I still treasure a message which I received from Mr. Barrington-Ward congratulating me not only on my story but on selecting my holiday centre with such perspicacity.

ALAN PITT ROBBINS

[The above article will appear next month in the braille REVIEW.]

American Offer

The interdenominational religious periodical published in Braille by the John Milton Society for the Blind of New York, is now being issued as a Talking Book. It is on two records and is sent free of charge to Talking Book users in the United States and Canada who apply for it.

The John Milton Society has now extended this generous privilege to Great Britain and will be pleased to send this recorded magazine to any Talking Book user in this country who would like to have it.

Each issue of the magazine contains Protestant Church news from various countries, devotional and missionary articles, international correspondence, and a certain amount of music, hymns or extracts from oratorios.

St. Dunstaners who would like to receive the recorded magazine or require further particulars should write direct to the Rev. Nelson Chappell, John Milton Society, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, 10, U.S.A.

Freemasonry

Our congratulations to Frank A. Rhodes, of Ovingdean, who now has the honour of being the Worshipful Master of the St. Nicholas Lodge, No. 5108.

Brighton Housing Policy

Speaking at the Sussex Council Conference of the British Legion earlier this month, the President, Air Commodore G. B. Dacre said that Brighton Town Council, who have scrapped their system of giving people with war service background points on their housing list, must be fought on the subject. They should not scrap the preference for ex-servicemen and he called on Brighton's 30,000 ex-service men and women to help in the fight to reinstate the system.

Young St. Dunstaners

Thelma Beard (Sunbury-on-Thames) has won a scholarship to Christ's Hospital, Hertford.

★ ★ ★

Michael Hedger, Herne Bay, has passed for Worcester Cadet Officers' Ship.

★ ★ ★

John Rowland Ettridge has been given his Rugby Football Colours for Christ's Hospital. John is 5ft. 5in.—small for a full-back. The team has an unbeaten record this year against other Public Schools.

Marriages

Lucy Thomas (Shirley, Birmingham), in September, to Robert Garwood.

★ ★ ★

Josephine Hedger, on November 29th, to Donald Lambert, of New York.

★ ★ ★

Henry Devlin (St. Helens) was also recently married.

★ ★ ★

Other news of Young St. Dunstaners on Page 7.

DEAR EDITOR,

There may be many St. Dunstaners who took part in the Coronation of His Majesty King George V in 1911.

I had the honour of being one of a detachment from my regiment (2nd Battalion Durham Light Infantry), then stationed at Colchester, to be present. We were encamped in Regent's Park, not a hundred yards from St. John's Lodge. Our position on the route was opposite Sandow's School of Physical Culture in Regent Street, and I shall always remember on that very hot June day, watching the antics of a crowd of Germans, belonging to the School, in gym kit, on top of the parapet, and we were rather impressed by their physique.

Another outstanding feature of the day was the Kaiser, who looked more like a statue on a horse than anything else, and I particularly remember that we were looking for that withered arm.

With the coming Coronation such memories are automatically revived, and I wonder how many of my St. Dunstan's friends were there 42 years ago on the job.

I wish all readers good health, good luck, a jolly Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Portslade.

ALAN NICHOLS.

DEAR EDITOR,

The Guild of Methodist Braillists is considering with the N.I.B. ways and means of publishing the tunes of the Methodist Hymn Book in Braille. We cannot, however, undertake this work unless there would be at least fifteen people to buy copies (at a reasonable price) after publication. It is not easy to tell what the demand would be, and I should be grateful if blind organists and others interested would write to me.

Yours sincerely,

G. L. TREGLOWN,

Pennar House,

Newbridge, Mon.

Hon. Secretary.

DEAR EDITOR,

May I, through the REVIEW, thank all those concerned with the beautiful leaving present. I use it constantly, and it reminds me of my many good friends and happy years at St. Dunstan's.

Yours sincerely,

D. M. ("Johnny") WALKER.

DEAR EDITOR,

We all know what tricks double negatives can play on us at times; but so on occasion can a single negative. I have in mind the opening words of Laurence Binyon's immortal verse, "They shall grow *not* old..." beautiful words, and if I may say so, beautifully spoken by our Chairman at the Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall. The positioning of that simple little "not" is full of significance, and to misinterpret it by saying or writing, "They shall *not* grow old..." makes it, in my opinion, quite banal. This was brought home to me when I attended our local British Legion Service of Remembrance at our parish church, and the words were incorrectly phrased.

In the Braille "Review" the negative was wrongly quoted, but in the printed edition the "not" was in its rightful position.

Yours faithfully,

Fotheringhay,

Peterborough.

JAMES S. HODGSON.

London Hostel

We mentioned in the REVIEW at the time of the removal of our Headquarters offices from Park Crescent to Marylebone Road that we hoped to be able to obtain possession of the two small adjoining cottages to take the place of No. 8 Park Crescent, at which St. Dunstaners can stay for a night when they are on their way to Brighton, or are visiting Headquarters for business or for medical or other reasons.

Owing to the housing shortage, the Local Authority is still not yet able to release the cottages, but we have obtained a house at 49 Abbey Road, N.W.8, which will, at the end of the year, take the place of No. 8 Park Crescent, which has—for some time now—proved too large and unwieldy for our present needs.

Mrs. E. M. Higgs, who is known to many St. Dunstaners, will continue as Matron.

Braille Correspondent

Mr. T. H. Reynolds, of 68 Dartmouth Road, Paignton, who has studied Braille writing and reading (visual), would like to correspond with a St. Dunstaner, particularly perhaps one who has served in India, and would like to refresh his memories of that country.

Ovingdean Notes

November passed quickly here for there was much in the way of entertainments, both in the House and locally.

We were fortunate in having two very interesting talks given on different aspects of life in the Commonwealth. The first was given by Major Stanford-Smith on "Life in Jamaica," and later in the month Mr. Campbell visited the Centre to tell us something of "A day in the life of a Tea Planter."

Entertainments in the House included a visit by the Brighton Male Voice Choir and also one from the Florence Moore Players, when they presented J. B. Priestley's play, "The Linden Tree."

The main entertainment of the month for all St. Dunstaners locally was the annual Dinner and Theatre Party, arranged under the terms of the Will of the late Mrs. Pittman. About three hundred people in all were included in the party this year. Dinner was at the Grand Hotel and afterwards the party visited Her Majesty's Theatre for the play "A Shot in the Dark," by Ernest Dudley, well-known to radio listeners as "The Armchair Detective." Once again, Mr. and Mrs. Kittle were able to join the party, and Commandant expressed to Mrs. Kittle (who is niece of the late Mrs. Pittman) the appreciation of Brighton St. Dunstaners. Included in the party were also trainees from Ovingdean and residents from West House.

It will be almost Christmas by the time the REVIEW is issued, so we would like to send all our readers our very best wishes from Ovingdean. Happy Christmas and New Year to every one, with a particular greeting for ex-trainees and those who have recently started out in new jobs. May it be a prosperous New Year for you all.

★ ★ ★

Visitors to Ovingdean will be pleased to know that they can now purchase St. Dunstan's lettered rock and other confectionery from Bob Osborn's tobacco kiosk in the entrance hall.

Personal

Her friends will hear with regret that Mrs. Bryant ("Bunny Carter") has been ill, and has also suffered the loss of her father.

Talking Book Library

November Needlework

Admittedly one cannot read the petit-point on the edges of the discs, but the well-knit grooves in their usual symmetrical pattern do respond to treatment. The five books released all have their points, but on the whole, "The Wrecker" and "Florence Nightingale" must appeal most to the general reader. Catalogue hereunder:—

"House of Exile," by Nora Waln, reader Mabel Constanduros, is a word picture of one of the "stately homes" of old China, say 1920-37, which is quite interesting in its way and in patches most gripping, in spite of the fact that I found the reader's voice most sleep-inducing. Most instructive and absorbing if China appeals to one as a background.

"The Wrecker," by R. L. Stevenson, reader Jack de Manio, is a most interesting yarn told by a trader in "the Islands" of his own life. The story of a young sculptor caught up, wrapped up, and then tripped up in business until we meet him telling his story in the South Seas. The scene is set in the 'nineties and the story is a good 'un.

"Florence Nightingale," by C. Woodham Smith, reader Eric Gillett, is no more and no less than awe-inspiring. A frail woman, I grant you, but this century has yet to see a counterpart of that steel spirit and will, which, although uncomfortable and even fatal for some of her dearest friends, were absolutely necessary to make some fraction of her hygienic ideals practicable.

"British Politics since 1900," by D. C. Somerville, reader Arthur Bush, is a grand little book, full of well-loved and well-hated names and nostalgic associations. Pleasant to read, entertaining, and informative withal.

"I Leap Over the Wall," by Monica Baldwin, reader Jean Metcalfe, on the face of it is a most uninteresting adventure story. However, put yourself in the author's position, that is to say inhabit a convent from 1914 until 1942, and then you may appreciate her all-too-worldly nightmare of adventure. Let us not make the mistake of minimising the courage of this 48-year-old spinster, thrown upon a world as strange as any Gulliver met on his travels. If you can feel for and with Miss Baldwin you can enjoy the book, otherwise you will regret disturbing it from its shelf.

Pray excuse my rusty pen and be sure to read "Florence Nightingale." NELSON.

Blackpool Notes

November is always a season of Remembrance and on the 2nd, E. Horan (Paddy) and Matron represented our world-wide organisation at the British Legion Festival held in the Blackpool Opera House.

We were pleased to welcome the members of the Liverpool Club on the 9th, and all enjoyed the luncheon party held in the Home instead of at the Bourne Hotel.

During the morning of the 9th we attended Service at the Cenotaph, where Billy Christian placed the poppy wreath.

The Manchester Club came over on the 11th—a day which will always be considered by the older St. Dunstaners as *the* day. We had a Christmas fare lunch, which was followed by a short service in the lounge, taken by our Vicar, Rev. C. Wardle Harpur. Gerry Brereton came over from Liverpool where he was appearing that week—we were delighted when he sang for us.

We were pleased also to welcome so many of the local St. Dunstaners. On the 13th a party of "Blesma" lads came down for a domino tournament—all enjoyed the evening.

We received many invitations to ex-Service men's dinners and concerts—very happy meetings.

Long before these words appear in print we shall have paid tribute to our Founder, "The Great White Chief" as he is still called by so many when referring to Sir Arthur. Each year we have met in the lounge, and we are always happy to have so many of the locals who join with those staying in the Home to remember and say thank you, Sir.

All staff at the Blackpool Home send Christmas greetings to St. Dunstaners, their wives, families and friends.

★ ★ ★

Cyril Wood, who is a St. Dunstan's shopkeeper in business as a tobacconist and confectioner at Southsea, was, at the Annual Meeting of the Portsmouth Branch of the N.U.R.C., elected President of the Branch for the forthcoming year. He has held the office of Vice-President during the past year, and in this capacity attended the Annual Conference of the N.U.R.C., held at Llandudno in June, as one of the two delegates from the Portsmouth Branch.

He has, incidentally, been elected as a member of the Committee of the Portsmouth Branch for more than three years.

Births

HARLEY.—On October 18th, to the wife of F. Harley, of Wimblington, near March, a daughter.

JONES.—On December 4th, to the wife of S. R. Jones, of Edgware, a son—Peter.

Adoption

PALFREY.—By Mr. and Mrs. Frank Palfrey, of Osterley, a daughter—Joy Anita.

Marriage

PEACH.—On October 4th, T. Peach, of Houghton Regis.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

CALVERT.—To L. Calvert, of Ormskirk, and Mrs Calvert. Our St. Dunstan's father died on November 6th at the age of 89 and two weeks later his eldest sister died. To their added grief, their little grandson was born and died during the same period.

EMERSON.—To A. G. Emerson, of Thornton Heath, who lost his mother on November 19th.

MAY.—To J. May, of Glasgow, whose mother, with whom he lived, died early in December.

SPIERS.—To C. F. Spiers, of Marston, Oxford, whose wife died suddenly on December 1st.

Grandfathers

J. McDonald, of Oldham; F. Crabtree, of Leeds (their daughter, Pamela, in Kuala Lumpur, has had a daughter); A. Relf, of Slough (his son's wife has given birth to a son in Malta); A. Hermon, Watlington; E. Puddefoot, Herne Bay; T. Brewer, Hesketh Bank; H. Kidger, Deal.

National Laying Test

Report for the First Period of Four Weeks, October 13th to November 9th

				Score
				Value
1.	Webb, W.	...	...	118
2.	Smith, W. Alan...	...	...	79
3.	Bagwell, P.	...	...	75
4.	Holmes, P.	...	...	70
5.	Gregory, T. D.	...	...	36
6.	Jackson, G. C.	...	...	30

Average per bird, 11.64

“ In Memory ”

Lance Corporal Alfred Ernest Baldwin, *Royal Engineers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of one of our handless St. Dunstaners, A. E. Baldwin, of Brighton. He was forty-seven.

Enlisting in 1939, he was sent to the Middle East and received his very severe injuries when an enemy hand grenade exploded.

He trained as a telephone operator and worked for a short time on the special board at our Headquarters which were then in Park Crescent. Later he trained for weaving and had worked at this for a considerable time. He had also taken up the breeding of budgerigars and had had many successes.

His death was very sudden. He was admitted to hospital on November 13th, and died the next morning.

A wreath from his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers.
Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Baldwin and her son.

T/Cpl. Edward Patrick Ward, *Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Irish Forces*

We record with deep regret the death of E. P. Ward, of Dublin, which occurred tragically on November 2nd, the result of a car accident.

He came to Church Stretton in January, 1943, after he had been blinded by the accidental explosion of an anti-tank mine.

He trained as a telephonist and returned to Dublin to take up a post at the hospital to which he had been first admitted, St. Brigid's Military Hospital. He gave splendid service and was held in affection by everyone for his cheerful and happy disposition. He made it his vocation in life to help complete the training of civilian blind people as telephonists, and in this way he helped some twenty men and women to their own independence.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Ward and her two children.

The funeral took place at Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin, in the presence of many friends and others who had admired him. A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the many flowers, and St. Dunstan's was represented by Messrs. Sean Macnamara and M. Delaney. "Mike" is Mrs. Ward's brother and has been a great help to her in her trouble.

Warrant Officer George F. Robinson, *Royal Air Force*

With deep regret we record the death of G. Robinson, of Ewell, Surrey. He was thirty-two. He came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1949, and left the same year to do leather work at his home. He had, however, been ill for a long time, and he died in hospital on December 10th.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the flowers at the funeral.

He leaves a widow, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Rifleman Bertrand William Hughes, *2-16 Queen's Westminster Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of B. W. Hughes, of Hornsey, N.6, at the age of sixty-two.

He did not come to St. Dunstan's until August, 1951, although his discharge from the Army was in 1919. His age and the state of his health made it impossible for him to undertake training. He died very suddenly on December 6th.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow.

A wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral.

Private Allan Pearse Williams, *Hampshire Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of A. P. Williams, of Swanage. He was 64.

When he came to us in January, 1950, he worked on trays and string bags, and he was working on the latter almost until his death. He had been ill for some time and he died on December 9th.

A wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers at the funeral.

He leaves a widow, to whom our deep sympathy is offered.

Sergeant Arthur Artingstall, *1st Batt. Manchester Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. Artingstall, of Ashton-under-Lyne.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1916 and trained as a poultry farmer and later as a mat-maker. As his health had been far from good, he had only been able to do a little netting for a considerable time, but his death, which occurred on November 30th, at his home, was unexpected.

Sir Ian's wreath was among the flowers.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to his wife and relatives.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 401—VOLUME XXXVI

JANUARY, 1953

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

MR. C. D. Wills has been appointed Welfare Superintendent of St. Dunstan's. Mr. Wills is an able young executive, 39 years of age, and has been our Chief Accountant since he joined the staff in 1948. He served in the Second World War as a private and then was commissioned, became Assistant Adjutant and later Staff Captain. He had experience in an ordinary infantry regiment and in various administrative posts, including welfare, while he was in the Army, and while he has been Chief Accountant at St. Dunstan's he has had the opportunity of learning much about our organisation from the inside and has, in addition, undertaken a certain amount of welfare work for some St. Dunstaners, notably our shop-keepers. He therefore seems well qualified to undertake this important post, and all St. Dunstaners will, I am sure, wish him success with his new responsibilities.

St. Dunstan's Settles Down

Six and a half years have passed since the end of the war, and St. Dunstan's has now settled down to its peace-time routine. Many changes have taken place during this period and much progress has been made. The move from Church Stretton to Brighton was a major operation and this was followed a few years later by the reconstruction of the old West House, so that it is now very well equipped for the provision of accommodation for old and lonely and sick St. Dunstaners. The Children's Home at Rottingdean, provided by the generosity of the R.A.F., was opened and has proved very popular, and two of the big wards on the second floor at Ovingdean, now making four in all, are now divided up into small rooms. The intensive period of training following the war is over, and although we shall have to retain beds for trainees at Ovingdean for many years to come, the number is likely to decline and, accordingly, training facilities will be progressively curtailed.

Blackpool has been closed, and the transit house at 8 Park Crescent, has also been given up and a smaller house at 49 Abbey Road taken in its place. During the period also, the various temporary offices which we had during the war period have given way to two permanent offices at 191 Marylebone Road and 1 South Audley Street.

Most of these changes arose out of or as a consequence of the war, and now that they are completed we may look forward to a stable period in St. Dunstan's which may last for some years.

A good deal of progress has been made in our welfare services. We have also continued a vigorous housing policy and have devoted much time to dealing with individual pensions cases and representing, on our own and in concert with the British Legion, the case for improved war pensions generally, with a large measure of success so far as many St. Dunstaners are concerned. Grants to meet emergencies of all kinds have been increased to take account of the fall in the value of money. The annual coal grant, instituted as a war time addition, has been continued; holiday allowances have been improved and various provisions have been made for St. Dunstaners' widows.

I think we may say with a certain measure of pride that no organisation for seriously disabled ex-Servicemen has covered the ground so fully as St. Dunstan's in providing a complete service from the moment of admission until the end of life. Nor, I think, has any group of badly disabled men made such a success of their lives as have St. Dunstaners.

Talking Books for Students

Talking Books are read in our own studios, but the actual gramophone discs are made by the established record-making companies, and a complicated process is required, involving the making of copper masters. These are expensive and consequently a considerable number of each record has to be pressed. Thus we can only make Talking Books which are more or less popular, and of which a substantial number is required in the Library.

Now, however, we have a process whereby an individual copy of a book can be made at a reasonable cost and put into the Library. This opens the way for a Students' Section of the Library, and we propose to start it if we find that there is a demand for it.

Any student amongst St. Dunstaners or in the wider blind world is invited to apply to the Talking Book Library at Abbey Estate, Mount Pleasant, Alperton, Middlesex, stating that he would like a particular text book or similar book for study recorded. Only a very limited number can be made and each case will be considered, and if it is judged to be worth while, both from the point of view of that student and also of the general use to which the book might afterwards be put, it will be recorded. The student who asked for the book will be allowed to have it for a few months or until he has passed his examination, and then it will be returned to the Library and will be available for others. These books will be read by amateur voluntary readers, but the records will be made in our studios. Will any St Dunstaner who would like a book recorded for study purposes, whether he be a young student working for examinations or an older person who studies a particular subject for pleasure or profit, write in and ask if his need can be met.

Miss Pain Ill

I am very sorry to inform St. Dunstaners that Miss Pain is ill, and has had to return from the voyage round the world on which she had started. Shortly after she went aboard, she was taken ill and her doctors advised that she should be put off the ship at Aden and return on another vessel to the United Kingdom. As this goes to press, Miss Pain is still at sea, but I am glad to say Lady Fraser has had a brief letter saying she is much better than she was. Meantime, Australians and New Zealanders and Canadians who were expecting her to visit them during the next few months must await a further report which we will put in the next issue of the REVIEW.

Miss Pain was so looking forward to seeing her many friends throughout the world and they were eagerly anticipating her visit, and I can only express the unanimous grief that this splendid journey has been cut short and the hope that something may still be able to be arranged for the future.

IAN FRASER.

Honours

Our heartiest congratulations are extended to the following St. Dunstaners of the First World War whose names appeared in the New Year Honours List:—

Mr. Godfrey Robinson, M.C., Chairman of the National Institute for the Blind, who receives the C.B.E.

Mr. Rex Furness, a distinguished research

chemist and retired manager of the Research Department of Messrs. J. Crosfield, and Chairman of the Warrington and Widnes Society for the Blind, receives the M.B.E.

Mr. John Straughton, for 21 years telephone operator with the Workington Iron and Steel Company, is awarded the British Empire Medal. John returned to his old firm when he lost his sight so that his total service is now forty years.

London Club Notes

The London Club wound up a very successful year with the Christmas Party on December 20th, when, with a liberal supply of refreshments and merry-making, a "jolly good time was had by one and all."

We are indebted to Mr. Jacques Brown, of the B.B.C., who brought along Ivor Dennis, Miss Olive Gilbert, Robert Morton, and Brian Reece (P.C. 49). So, with the pulling of crackers, and Father Christmas disguised as Mr. Willis conducting the draw, we closed down for 1952 and look forward to yet another good year.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge

In the London Business Houses competition, P. Nuyens' team beat Carreras, on January 9th. Their record is now: Played six, won three, drawn one, lost two. J. Fleming's team has not played so far this month.

Indoor Section

It has been a quiet month for the Indoor Section.

A dance will be held at the Victory Club, Marble Arch, on Friday, 20th February, from 7.30 to 11 p.m. Tickets are 2s. 6d. each, and can be obtained from Mr. Bob Willis, or at the Club. Come along and give us your support; it's a good hall, a good crowd, and refreshments can be obtained at reasonable prices.

C. J. WALKER.

Outdoor Section

Seven Miles' Sealed Handicap Walk

Regent's Park, Saturday, 3rd January, 1953

Handicap Times and Order of Finishing

Pos.	Competitor	Actual Time	H'cap Allow.	H'cap Time	H'cap Pos.
1	A. Brown ...	63.24	2.50	60.34	2
2	W. Miller ...	64.31	Scratch	64.31	8
3	T. Gaygan ...	65.46	1.30	64.16	7
4	C. Williamson	66.26	1.10	65.16	9
5	S. Tutton ...	67.56	5.35	62.21	4
6	P. Cryan ...	68.40	9.00	59.40	1
7	A. Bradley ...	70.13	7.25	62.48	5
8	L. Dennis ...	71.17	10.15	61.02	3
9	C. Stafford ...	71.53	7.55	63.58	6
10	D. Fleisig ...	80.22	14.55	65.27	10

Handicap—

1st P. Cryan.

2nd A. Brown.

3rd L. Dennis.

Fastest Loser—W. Miller.

Most Improved—S. Tutton.

From All Quarters

When the Duke of Edinburgh visited the Raleigh factory at Nottingham recently, he met three St. Dunstaners who work there—Dennis Bingham, Stanley Fowler and Horatio Langton. The Duke asked them how they became blind, and what units they served in, and complimented them on the way they were tackling their jobs and making an important contribution to their own well-being as well as helping the country.

★ ★ ★

Hannen Swaffer wrote recently in the "World's Press News": "It is because I have thrice been on the 'Daily Express' that I shall always feel some kinship with it. . . It was during the Boer War—in 1900 or 1901—that as a youth of twenty, Cyril Arthur Pearson first engaged me, beside a palm tree in his Tudor Street office. . . Pearson's character blossomed at its best when, having refused to be conquered by blindness which would have embittered a lesser man, he determined to lead a normal life, and then, when the war-blinded came home, founded St. Dunstan's, to the divine purpose of which he devoted the rest of his life."

★ ★ ★

Will those who have in the past sent used Christmas cards to the Andrew Davison Christmas Card Industry note that cards are no longer required as the Industry closed down as from December 31st, 1952.

We learn from another source that used Christmas cards are welcomed by and should be addressed to the Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Enterprises, Christmas Card Depot, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

★ ★ ★

Margaret Stanway, with her accordion, appeared at a Morecambe concert in aid of the Sailors' Children Society. Margaret's photograph, with Eddie Morrell, the well-known North Country comedian, appeared in the local Press.

★ ★ ★

When Maurice Chevalier was asked by Littlewood's, the pools promoters, to present cheques to prizewinners, he asked that the sum offered to him for his services—£40—should be sent to St. Dunstan's.

★ ★ ★

Captain Nicholas Liakhoff, known to many for work in connection with the training of Guide Dogs received the M.B.E. in the recent Honours List.

I Remember

A further selection of reminiscences from St. Dunstaners. 10s. 6d. goes to the sender of each one published.

When Ignorance Was Bliss

One of the delights in spending the summer holidays at West House between the two World Wars, was the bathing sessions down by the Banjo Groyne.

One lovely hot day, Mrs. Ralph escorted her husband Frank and myself down to the Groyne for a swim; we had hardly entered the water when the safety boatman, who had got to know us, rowed up and invited us to hang on and he would tow us out from the crowd of bathers, then we could have a decent swim back. After rowing for a while he told us to let go and swim for the beach, and he would follow in case of accidents. Arriving back on the foreshore, we dried, and after a short rest decided to return to West House. Mrs. Ralph had some difficulty in guiding us through the crowds which were lying and sitting all over the place; added to this difficulty I had to swing my stiff leg outwards in a circular movement to negotiate the shelving shingle. We hadn't proceeded far when I felt something round my foot, at the same time I heard a titter from the people around. Thinking it was seaweed, I shook my leg; the volume of the titter increased, but my foot was free and we carried on. After a few steps, Mrs. Ralph turned to me and said, "Well, if you had made a bet with Frank you could not have done that any neater." "Done what?" I asked. Then, to my horror, she explained: "A young woman came out of the water, lay down, spread a large towel over herself, and had just slipped off her wet costume, when you swung your leg and pulled the towel off her. Then, as she grabbed for it, you dragged it away by shaking your leg. Having made sure at her second attempt, she looked up to tell you what she thought of you, saw you hadn't any eyes, understood, and just relaxed under the shelter of her towel."

Yes, my friends, I can join you in the laugh prompted by your imagination, but . . .

T. ROGERS.

The Parson's Nose

While at Church Stretton a party of us were invited to tea in a village about fourteen miles away. After being introduced to our escorts, we were shown around various gardens, and into the little Church. We then ajourned to the local hotel for tea. The tea was served on round tables four to a table. Joe Nicol and I sat at one table. His escort was the Canon and mine, a vivacious young lady of French extraction. Joe had the Canon on his right, while the young lady was on my left. I had finished as I thought all I had on my plate, but the young lady put the fork in my hand and poised it above my plate and said "Stab." I stabbed and felt the prong of the fork strike an object which flew off. Then I heard a stifled "Ahem" from the Canon, and stifled giggles from the lady. I tried to get out of her what she was laughing at and then she told me that, when I stabbed, the radish that was left on my plate shot straight and true and hit the parson on the nose.

E. H. NORTH.

In Loving Memory

When I first arrived at Church Stretton on 1st November, 1944, I was still semi-sighted and so learned my way around in daylight hours by different landmarks and became very independent. My ability to get around had the disadvantage of making me over-confident, which eventually led to my meeting my Waterloo during the hours of night.

At the end of November a small Repertory Company came to Stretton for a short season at the Silvester Hall. The hall, built in memory of Kenneth Horne's grandfather, stood on the main road nearly opposite the King's Arms. My escort on my out-of-town wanderings and shows, etc., was a local lady living over the railway bridge near Battlefields, and so I said I would meet her at the hall for the show and explained how easy it would be for me to find it from Longmynd.

Having finished supper, I set out down the drive, out of the gate, diagonally across to the stile. All went well. Once over the stile the major part of the journey would be easy. Down the field path, out through the swing gate, past the school room, out of the double gates onto the road. Splendid, that's fine. . . But. . . suddenly

my feet were not on hard gravel but on paving stones, and I felt no wall to my left hand. I stood still, listened, heard nothing. I felt round with care. Ah, a wall, this must go somewhere. I followed it a couple of paces, turned right with the wall, another pace it turned again, so did I, two paces or so then once again the wall turned right—I was bewildered.

I stood still and I heard a sound of scuffle, a low down scuffling. I cried out, "Hallo." Silence, then a shrill answer "What's up, Mister?" I humbly explained, "I am lost." I was given a reassuring answer, "Stand still, we'll get you." A piercing whistle split the silent night, and this was answered apparently from all over the place. In a moment I was surrounded by a party of small boys who all assured me that they would take me. I was guided through narrow paths out on the main road and so arrived at the old hall where a peal of laughter greeted me from my waiting escort. She explained I looked like the Ark Royal under tow of six tugboats, but all was well. I realised that I had turned slightly left out of the gates and wandered into the churchyard. Never again did I try to walk clever, but made sure that my hand or stick had contacted the right places. I had no desire to emboss R.I.P. upon my forehead or (loving memory) upon some other part of my anatomy.

I still cannot understand how I wandered in between the tombstones without barking my knuckles or knocking my knees against the granite and marble memorials.

JOHN MUDGE.

Talking Book Library

When the Talking Book Library moved from Camden Town to Alperton recently, some half a million records were transferred to their new premises. The average volume, in its special posting container, weighs 10 to 12lbs.—quite an arm-ache, as St. Dunstaners know when they carry one to the local Post Office. The Talking Book Library despatches nearly 10,000 volumes a year to over 3,000 members, and receives the same number back again.

The "New Beacon" says that it is hoped before the end of 1953, when machines now gradually coming into production again can be supplied, to admit another 1,000 people to membership.

Captain William Appleby

Wing Commander A. D. Macdonald, M.C., a member of St. Dunstan's Executive Council, writes:

"I served in the same battalion as William Appleby and was, so to speak, in the next door trench when he was blinded. Let me tell a story which I like still to remember with a smile as typical of him.

"He held some shells of houses which protruded into the German lines, the Germans being between twenty and thirty yards away and easily within range of spoken insults. Into these houses he had brought a large bed, in which he slept regularly in pyjamas. Admonished for this by higher authority, he said, 'If my platoon can't hold off an attack till I put on a Burberry and gum boots, I ought to have been sacked long ago for having failed to train them properly.'"

Wireless for the Blind

The Christmas Day appeal for wireless sets for the blind was made by Sir Ian Fraser.

In his broadcast, Sir Ian said there were 90,000 blind people in the United Kingdom, but there are 5,000 who have not got a wireless set.

Sir Ian ended his broadcast with the words, "I ask my listeners to join me in a prayer . . . 'Lighten our darkness we beseech Thee, O Lord, and by Thy great mercy . . .'" Many listeners thought that the breaking off in the middle of the prayer was the fault of the B.B.C., but Sir Ian ended exactly as he had intended. He hoped listeners would realise that he was implying that the darkness of the blind might be lightened by the provision of wireless sets.

There has been a wonderful response to the appeal. The result to date is £27,500, which is about £10,000 more than the amount contributed at the same time last year.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "Review," January, 1923 :

"The Football Competition has been one of the best since we have indulged in soccer . . . this last game ranked as a Cup Final, for the leadership of the League depended upon it . . . we were therefore fortunate in getting Mr. F. C. Williamson, of Arsenal F.C., to keep goal."
[The Saints won.—Ed.]

Matron Vaughan Davies

Many men have expressed the wish to subscribe to a presentation to Matron Vaughan Davies. Mr. Askew has offered to act as Honorary Treasurer of the Fund and St. Dunstaners who desire to associate themselves with the presentation should send their subscriptions to him at 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1.

Liverpool Club Christmas Party

One of the gayest, happiest and jolliest Christmas Parties was held at Sefton Hall, Leece Street, Liverpool, on Saturday, 20th December. Liverpool Club members, their wives and escorts, their families and friends thronged from all parts to enjoy to the full the festivities of the season. We were all delighted to meet our guests once again, the chief of these being Matron Vaughan-Davies of Blackpool. Even Alex Wright and other invalids could not stay away from this invigorating tonic. We were very sorry to miss the cheerful company of Mrs. Dunphy, due to illness, and we wish her a speedy recovery.

Our President, Captain E. Holloway, proposed the toast of Her Majesty the Queen, the Duke of Lancaster, and in a brilliant and witty following speech gave a cheery and friendly greeting to all our guests. As an indication of the esteem the Club members felt for Matron Davies, a presentation of receptacles suitably made for the use of "Cherry Brandy" was made by our young and gallant Committee member, Ted Cooper. Ted's nicely spoken phrases echoed the sentiments of all present. In her reply, Matron spoke of the pleasure it gave her to be with us, and wished the Club a furtherance of its many activities and happy gatherings.

A little surprise item was then staged with our Chairman, Mr. J. C. Owen, revealing that even Secretaries and their wives may not know what is going on. Jim Owen then requested our Secretary's wife, Mrs. L. Milner, to accept a little token from the members of the Club for the successful carrying out of her arduous duties since the formation of the Liverpool Club. As Canteen Manageress, Buyer of Presents, Produce Broker and Scone Expert, she is one of our willing backroom girls.

The "high spot" of the evening was the entertainment provided by Mr. J. C. Reason and his entertainers. Mr. Reason

never fails to provide a first class group of artists. Our President's wife, Mrs. Holloway, then presented each child with a present from the Club members and these were received with joy.

Before leaving for Blackpool, Matron Davies presented the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Fund allocation of prize money for those tournaments which have been running through the season.

The rest of the evening was spent in that grand exercise of dancing; or as some one was heard to say, "shuffling around!" The agility and never flagging energy of our Secretary M.C., Tom Milner, kept the elegant couples well under control. One or two "bumps" on the floor reminded Tom of his rowing days. He made a charming "cox" on this occasion.

We danced the "light fantastic" to the rhythm of Mr. E. Owen, our Chairman's son, so ably tickling the ivories, and with our Committee member, George Ellis, cleverly providing syncopation on his drums, cymbals, etc. Sorry you missed the dancing, Edwin and George, but your excellent music certainly made the "Old Contemptibles" shake their rheumatic knees. A grand evening closed with the singing of Auld Lang Syne. A. W. LINCOLN.

Birmingham Club

Children's Christmas Party

On Sunday, December 14th, a Children's Christmas Party was held at the Red Cross Centre, Highfield Road, Edgbaston, when children and grand-children of St. Dunstaners had a marvellous time. First there was a Film Show upstairs, featuring three Charlie Chaplin films. These were greatly enjoyed by all, even some adults. After that was over the children trooped downstairs, and everyone enjoyed a real party tea, with plenty of good things to eat. When tea was cleared, and everyone moved back from the centre of the floor excepting the children, the great moment arrived. No other person than Father Christmas himself, to give all the children a grand present each off the giant Christmas Tree standing in the corner. To round off a marvellous party there was a conjurer who kept everyone guessing with his skill, and was greatly appreciated by everyone. In all, it was a marvellous party, enjoyed by children and adults alike.

PADDY CAMPBELL.

Letter to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I note with interest from Alan Nichol's letter in the last issue of the REVIEW that he took an active part in the Coronation of our beloved Sovereign, the late King George V, in 1911. In his letter he states that he remembers seeing the late Kaiser Wilhelm II in the procession. I would like to point out to my old friend, Alan, that I think he is mistaken, as it is not the custom for a reigning monarch to attend the Coronation of another reigning monarch.

Well, like Alan, I took an active part in the Coronation of 1911. Some time before, I was in camp with the 41st Training Brigade, R.F.A. One morning a special parade was called, when the officer detailed for the Coronation came round and selected those whom he thought to be the smartest. Being a smart guy, I was among those chosen. We eventually travelled to London. Incidentally, it was my first visit to the capital.

We were put in tents on Woolwich Common, just outside the Arsenal Barracks. We did not have much sleep on the eve of the Coronation, as we were turfed out long before the old cock was due to crow and told to get cracking with the burnisher, etc., and make ourselves spick and span. This accomplished, we travelled by the ferry across old Father Thames and sailed right into an early morning mist. Alas, love's labour lost. All the burnishing and polishing was in vain. We were then marched to the Old Post Office in St. Martin's le Grand, I believe, to do some more burnishing and polishing. Eventually we were marched to our allotted spot on the line of route, but frankly I cannot remember where it was, although I think it was somewhere in the vicinity of Victoria Street. Needless to say, we were on parade hours before the procession was due. Then things began to happen to me. After being on parade for quite an appreciable time, the sergeant in charge of my contingent gave me some money and told me to get a bottle of Scotch (3s. 6d. in those days). There were three Lifeguardsmen at the entrance to the street where the pub was, and I had to pass between them. When I arrived inside the pub I was greeted with cheers by the occupants, all civilians, and I was virtually dragged to the counter by several of them and, before you could say "Robinson Crusoe," I had several drinks

lined up. Believe it or not, colleagues, I was not used to much in those days. However, I threw some of them back. I obtained the bottle of Scotch and proceeded to rejoin my comrades. When I looked towards the entrance to the street I now saw six Guardsmen. I decided to take a chance and avoid the real horses. Unfortunately, I didn't. My lug-holes were subjected to a broadcast of the most perfect pre-1914 Army English I have ever had occasion to listen to, except perhaps in the early days of St. Dunstan's. Back to my place in the ranks I had another kibful from my sergeant. However, when peace was declared mutually, he handed the bottle round to the cheers of the spectators in the balconies. Then the Sergeant told me to hand the bottle to a Grenadier Guardsman who was a flag-wallah. He was about 6ft. 4in. tall and very conspicuous. As he lifted the bottle to his mouth he was greeted with roars of "Good health" from the spectators, accompanied by showers of fruit from the balconies. This is where I met my Waterloo. I looked up in their direction and received a wallop in the eye with a large apple. It certainly was a beautiful black eye.

By this time, in common with the majority of the troops who lined the route, I had become somewhat the worse for wear. This weariness was aggravated by the effect of the Scotch, so that when the procession was getting near we were ordered to present arms, a bit prematurely I thought, and then the dry rot set in. My knees began to quiver slightly. Whom do you think came to the rescue? None other than one of the good old London "cops." He spotted the defect immediately. "All right, sonny, don't worry, I'll look after you; I'm an old soldier myself." He grabbed me by the belt and supported me, or rather took the weight. Thus, when the procession passed by, I was presenting arms with a black eye and being held up like a tin soldier.

But the 1911 Coronation was one of the greatest and most brilliant spectacles I have ever had the honour of witnessing.

P. J. CONLIN.

(Editor's Note.—*The Times* confirms that the Kaiser was not at the Coronation of King George V, but he attended the funeral of King Edward VII the previous year.)

Blackpool Notes

We began the month by a visit to the Under Thirty Club Party on the 17th. It was exciting getting to and from the hall as we had one of the famous Blackpool gales. We know it was a Blackpool gale because Burton's Shop Window was blown in.

On Christmas morning, after breakfast, the Mayor of Blackpool and the Mayoress called just as Joe Jordan was ready to perform as Father Christmas and give the presents from the tree. The Vicar, Mr. Wardle Harpur, came for Christmas dinner and thoroughly enjoyed himself—it was his first with us. In the afternoon we listened to the Queen and there was a dance in the lounge in the evening.

On Boxing Day a party went to the Boot and Shoe, Elswick, to get in high spirits (*wot* spirits), for the dance in the evening. On the Saturday night a party were guests of the management of the Queen's Hotel.

A large party went on December 29th to the Palace to hear Gerry Brereton and on New Year's Eve Gerry came to the Home with some of his fellow artists, who gave a concert in the Lounge. They were both great evenings. A coach load went later to the Cherry Tree Inn to refresh themselves and to prepare for the New Year's Eve dance. It was a crowded house that night but by turning staff rooms into bedrooms, we managed to accommodate thirty-nine. T. Milner, representing Northern Area and A. Pimm, Southern Area, were the first-footers. We broke up at about 3 a.m.

On January 4th we held a party which went on until after midnight. Indeed, some went on the seafront at midnight for a last breath of Blackpool air. The next morning, January 5th, the Home closed, only three invalids remaining. It was a bitterly cold day—snow, fog and sleet.

B. VAUGHAN-DAVIES.

National Laying Test, 1952-53

Report for the Second Period of Four Weeks, November 10th to December 7th

	Score	Value
1 Webb, W.	201
2 Smith, W. Alan	180
3 Bagwell, Philip	157
4 Holmes, Percy	127
5 Jackson, G. C.	80
6 Gregory, T....	...	41

Total to date, 803.

Average per bird to date, 22.31.

Life's Like That

So the Editor wants contributions, I mused. I have always known—well, thought—I could write an article. Dead easy, too. According to that author chap whose autobiography I read recently, all you need when writing an article is a typewriter, paper, dictionary, one of those books telling you those words that are the same but different, if you see what I mean, and your favourite pipe going nicely. Ponder your subject awhile, and once you have begun the first sentence the article writes itself; money for jam! I assembled all the ingredients, got the pipe going: then came the snag—what about the subject? The editor had not given any. We were always given subjects at school—you know, "What I will be when I grow up" or "How I spent my summer holiday." I immediately ruled those out; I know what I am now that I am grown up, and I spent my summer holiday at Ovingdean, so that had better be suppressed, too. Bit tricky! Then I had an idea. Open the dictionary at random and try my luck. I did, and got "Callisthenics." Don't know much about Indian clubs; I was never clever enough even to swing the lead, much less wave two death-dealing lumps of wood around. So I tried again. After picking on haplography, sciamachy, crepuscularity, eleemosynary, I still wasn't getting anywhere. How did one think of a subject? Nothing like trying to write an article to make one realise how little one knows about anything. Then my son came home from the local debating society and my hopes rose once more as I said, "What did you debate to-night?" "It was impromptu speaking," he answered. "On what?" I fired back. "Well, the secretary has a pack of cards, each bearing a different title; he shuffles, the speaker cuts, and speaks according to what the card says. "Actually," he continued, "I've got the cards here, minding them for the secretary." "Just the job," I said, hardly able to conceal my excitement. "Get them out," I commanded, "I'll see what I can pick." He carefully shuffled. It seemed an eternity. It was maddening. He handed them to me and I fairly snatched them, whipped off a chunk and turned it face up. "What does it say?" I hissed. He read out the inscription, "Discourse on any subject you can think of." What a life!! T. J. FLOYD.

Un Enfant Terrible

I challenge anyone to think of anything more embarrassing than suddenly finding oneself a centre of attraction to a family circle consisting of elderly uncles and maiden aunts. Especially when one's Mother sets the tone of the nauseating discussion which follows when she produces the inevitable photograph album. "Wasn't Georgie a perfect pet," they coo as they gaze upon a reproduction of "Georgie" in satin and velvet at the age of three or four. "Georgie" by the way is now thirty years old, over six feet in height and weighs roughly fifteen stone. From then on I get the feeling of being a martyr flung into the arena of nostalgic memories. My natural reaction is one of revolt. Surely I was not such an angel? I seek refuge in my own reminiscences and think to myself that if this nonsense goes on I shall shatter the illusion with another little piece of family history. The story goes that a party of us were travelling to the seaside and in a train compartment crowded with adults I sat quietly looking out of the window. Parents and aunts watched my apparent angelic behaviour with satisfaction and nearby fellow passengers smiled indulgently upon my childish innocence. It happened as the train rushed unexpectedly into a tunnel and plunged us all into Stygian darkness. I cannot honestly claim that I remember the incident but it has been described to me so many times by the wretched "grown-ups" who were there that I sometimes imagine I can hear those loud shrill words, "Oh, the bloody tunnel!"

Which brings me to the problem of my own three-year old rebel. I'm glad to say I have high hopes about him. I think I can in a few words explain what I mean. For quite a long time his Mummy tried to persuade him to say his prayers each night before going to sleep. The novelty of the routine was effective at first, even if prayers were frequently interrupted by giggles. Then gradually his nibs sensed that this was no joke but a means of asking a certain "Little Jesus" to take care of things whilst he was asleep. At this stage I must admit that I am deeply suspicious of the motives behind my boy's apparent piety. When it comes to naming the souls who are to be watched over he does not stop with Mummy, Daddy, sister, Grannie,

etc. A whole string of quite unfamiliar names are recited and if a note of impatience is detected in his Mother's voice when she says "That's enough," he mumbles truculently that he does not like Jesus. One morning he begged me to tell him a story. He hit upon just the right moment, I was inspired. Into my mind came the picture of a little bird which, I said, flew down from a tree, into my basket shed and on to my shoulder. The theme appealed to me and I went on to develop it. This birdie was terribly hungry but wanted crumbs only for the little baby birds in the nest above. I think I added that the father bird had been killed by a wicked pussy cat. Anyway by this time I was completely carried away by my own eloquence, and with a lump as big as a fist at the back of my throat I poured on the pathos until the whole poignant scene was firmly imprinted upon Junior's imagination. Silence followed. I began to fear I had upset my audience and that probably a tear or two would soon be trickling down his little cheek, too. "Daddy, does that little birdie come to see you every day?" I nodded. "Is he coming to-day?" Another nod of assent. "I'm going to throw a brick at it."

G. ELLIS.

★ ★ ★

William Wainman, 31-year-old son of our St. Dunstaner, W. Wainman, of Davy-hulme, has received the framed Certificate of the Society for the Protection of Life from Fire, and a cheque for £5 for his bravery when fire broke out in a Nissen hut which had been converted into a dwelling. While Mrs. Wainman ran to telephone for help, William forced the door and dragged the unconscious 26 year old cousin of the tenant outside. He later returned to help Mrs. Goodrick out of the hut. Told that her two children were still inside, he again entered the building, picked them up from their bed and carried them outside.

★ ★ ★

Young St. Dunstaners

Eunice Bray (Manchester) is now Corporal in the Australian Women's Army after eight months' service.

Marriage

Ivor Leslie Wylie (Bromley) to Miss Pauline Turner, on December 20th.

Ovingdean Notes

Our Christmas celebrations began exceptionally early this year, with our very good friends of the Brighton and Hove Grocers' Association providing a Christmas Party for the St. Dunstaners in this area on December 10th, at the Grand Hotel, Brighton. What a successful evening it was too! Within a couple of days we were holding the Trainees' End of Term Dinner and Dance, and then they were off home to spend the Christmas holiday with their families, whilst Ovingdean began to get ready to receive those other St. Dunstaners who were to come to us for their Christmas vacation. With one thing and another you can tell not much time was wasted in getting into the Christmas spirit!

At the Trainees' Christmas Dinner and Dance we were very happy to have with us Sir Neville and Lady Pearson, and also Dr. William Thompson, President of the Blinded Veterans' Federation of America, who had spent a day at the Training Centre, together with Mr. Joseph Goldyn, Vice-President of the same organisation. Mr. Goldyn, unfortunately, had to return to London during the afternoon, but Dr. Thompson spent some time at the Dinner and Dance chatting with those present. He said, in a brief speech, how much both he and Mr. Goldyn had welcomed the invitation given to them by Sir Ian Fraser to visit the Training Centre and learn something of the work being carried on here.

The House was almost completely full by Christmas Eve when the Staff pantomime was performed in the Music Hut. "Red Riding Hood" was written by Miss Smith, V.A.D., and our thanks and good wishes go to her in South Africa, where she is at present staying. So Christmas got off to a flying start!

Christmas presents were distributed in the Lounge the following morning to all St. Dunstaners, and then, after port had been served—and this was a gift from the Grocers' Association—everyone went into the gaily-decorated Dining Room for the traditional Christmas Dinner. All was quiet during the afternoon! However, by the evening almost everyone was present in the Lounge for the Informal Concert after supper.

Boxing Day, always associated with a visit to the Pantomime, was no exception this year, when a party from Ovingdean went to

Brighton to a matinée performance, and in the evening a very large crowd enjoyed the Carnival Dance. It was very nice indeed to find so many local St. Dunstaners come along, and many people sportingly got into fancy dress. The costumes were extremely varied. One excellent disguise was worn by George Fallowfield, who made a formidable "Officer of the Law"!

Throughout the Christmas week several drives were arranged to take the holiday-makers round Sussex, for these outings remain always so popular.

On Sunday, December 28th, we welcomed a return visit from The Langley Theatre Group who, on this occasion, presented what they called "A Shakespearean Extravaganza, entitled Globe 1600." The production consisted of several scenes from famous plays, not all of them from Shakespeare, held together by music. One particularly amusing episode entitled "Pepper and Sand," by Emlyn Williams, helped to provide a very well-balanced entertainment. The Langley Theatre Group have promised to come again later this year and we shall look forward to that.

New Year's Eve! The Lounge was once again packed to capacity, and we were all delighted that Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, who had not been able to visit Ovingdean during the Christmas festivities, arrived to join us for the New Year's Eve celebrations. After some dancing and an excellent buffet, everyone gathered round to watch the "Horse Racing Game"—bets were placed—and they were off! About three or four races were run and then the dancing went on until midnight, when punch was served, the old year "tottered out," and the traditional dark man stepped across the threshold after the stroke of twelve! Everyone wished everyone else a very happy New Year, and so we all began 1953!

Quiet indeed was Ovingdean by January 3rd, for almost all the holiday men had by that time returned home and the decorations were taken down and the house made ready to receive the returning trainees for the beginning of the Spring Term on January 5th.

Anyway, to all of you St. Dunstaners, whether you came to us for Christmas or New Year or not, or whether you have been to us during 1952 or are coming this year, we all of us from Brighton send you our very best wishes for a happy and prosperous 1953.

Personal

Commandant and Matron at Ovingdean would like to express their thanks to all those St. Dunstaners who have so kindly sent them greetings this Christmas. So many have sent that it is not possible to acknowledge them all personally, but through the columns of THE REVIEW they hope to reach you all.

★ ★ ★

Miss Carlton tells the Editor that she too would like to thank St. Dunstaners for their Christmas cards, as would all members of the Staff at the Ovingdean and West House Homes who have heard from ex-trainees, other St. Dunstaners and ex-members of the Staff. A very happy New Year to all our friends.

Masonic

Congratulations to Ronald Stanners, of High Wycombe, who has recently become Worshipful Master of Hughenden Lodge, No. 6308.

Placements

H. W. Bramley, of Blackley, Manchester, as a capstan lathe operator at Messrs. Harpurhey Precision Co., Chadderton; R. Pringle, on industrial work with Measuring Instruments (Pullin) Ltd., Acton.

Grandfathers

G. Nancarrow, of Newquay; R. G. Field, of Potters Bar; C. E. Temperton, of Hull, (for the third time); W. Stamp, of Keelby, (five grand-children now); T. Maskell, of Hunmanby; W. Girling, Southampton.

Golden Wedding

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Watson, of Shirebrook, near Mansfield, whose Golden Wedding was on January 17th.

Silver Weddings

H. Jacklin, Patcham, December 13th; John Mudge, Tottenham, January 5th.

Births

BRETT.—On December 2nd, 1952, to the wife of R. Brett, of Brighton, a daughter—Nina Elisabeth Antonia.

DEVENPORT.—On December 17th, to the wife of H. T. Devenport, of High Wycombe, a son—John Peter.

FULLING.—On October 7th, to the wife of J. J. Fulling, of London, N.4, a daughter—Susan Ruth.

RUSSELL.—On December 26th, to the wife of N. Russell, of Leicester, a son—Timothy Stephen.

SAYWELL.—On December 14th, to the wife of P. Saywell, of Leamington Spa, a daughter—Julia Mary.

WINDLEY.—On December 31st, to the wife of H. Windley, of Hull, a son—Stephen John.

Marriages

EDWARDS—GRIFFITHS.—On August 16th, 1952, Bill Edwards, of Brighton, to Mrs. Monica Griffiths, widow, of Higher Broughton, Salford, Lancashire.

TEBBUTT—LEATHERLAND.—On December 19th, A. W. Tebbutt of Nottingham, to Mrs. Ethel Leatherland.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out this month to the following:

BURTENSHAW.—To A. J. Burtenshaw, of Walthamstow, whose wife died on December 21st, after a long and distressing illness.

GREATREX.—To H. W. Greatrex, of Peacehaven, who lost his father just before Christmas.

JONES.—To Isaac Jones, of Luston, Leominster, whose wife died on January 5th.

THOMAS.—To Wally Thomas, of Southampton, whose mother passed away on December 11th.

WILSON.—To A. Wilson, of Brighton, and Mrs. Wilson, whose eldest grandson—a jet pilot—has been killed in an air crash.

"In Memory"—continued

Warrant Officer George F. Robinson, Royal Air Force

St. Dunstaner A. G. Emerson, of Sutton, was a very great friend of George Robinson, whose death was reported last month and he writes: "The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and among the wreaths was a wreath of poppies from St. Dunstan's, a cushion of poppies from the R.A.F. with a target in the centre.

The service ended with the words, "They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old . . ."

Rifleman Bertrand William Hughes, 2/16 Queen's Westminster Regiment

B. W. Hughes, of Highgate, who died on December 6th, was a Deacon of Upper Holloway Baptist Church and an active supporter of all organisations connected with it. He was also well-known in the district as a singer. A Service was conducted at the Church prior to cremation. Mrs. Harding, wife of our St. Dunstaner, attended both services.

“In Memory”

Private Joseph Henry Debnam, 30th Machine Gun Corps

With deep regret we report the death of J. H. Debnam, of Great Barrow, Chester.

His military service began in August, 1914. He was wounded at Mons and came to St. Dunstan's in 1919, where he trained as a poultry farmer, and in spite of his constant head trouble he carried on until the time of his last illness. From a stay in hospital he went straight to West House and recovered so well that he decided to return home for Christmas, with a short stay at the Blackpool Home on the way. There he was taken suddenly ill and he died on December 9th.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the flowers at the funeral, together with a wreath from comrades and staff of the Blackpool Home. A Union Jack covered the coffin.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Gwylm, his son, in his trouble. Only recently his brother, Neville, was killed in a motor-cycle accident.

Charles Evans, Dragoon Guards

It is with deep regret that we record the death of C. Evans, of Wolverhampton.

Although he served with his regiment from September, 1914, until March, 1916, he did not come to us until 1943. He was then a very sick man with the additional disability of partial paralysis. He had spent long periods at West House, but he died at his home on December 5th.

A wreath of poppies from Sir Ian was sent for the funeral.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife and family and in particular to Mrs. Evans who had nursed him so devotedly for so long.

Corporal Alfred Palmer, 7th Leicestershire Regiment

We record with deep regret the death of A. Palmer, of Sherwood, Nottinghamshire.

It was not until 1944 that he came to St. Dunstan's, his sight then having failed as a result of mustard gas during the First World War. He became a shop-keeper and from the outset was most successful; he had just retired and was actually moving into a new house on the day he was taken ill. He died in hospital shortly afterwards.

A wreath from the Chairman was among the flowers at the funeral.

He leaves a wife and family to whom our sincere sympathy is offered.

Sapper Martin O'Brien, Royal Engineers

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Martin O'Brien, one of our permanent residents at West House, Brighton.

Martin served in the First World War but only came to us in 1951. He had been ill for a very long time. He died at West House shortly after he had made a journey to Ireland to see his relatives.

St. Dunstan's wreaths, from Sir Ian, and his Brighton comrades, were sent for the funeral.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to his relatives.

Private Henry William Allen, Labour Corps

We record with deep regret the death of H. W. Allen, of Devonport. He was seventy-five.

Serving in the First World War, he came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1920 and trained in boot repairing and mat-making, but he gave up this work some time ago owing to his failing health. He had been ill for a considerable time, and our deep sympathy goes to his sister who had devotedly cared for him.

Private Arthur Welland, Queen's Royal West Surreys

With deep regret we record the death of one of our West House men, Arthur Welland. He was sixty-three.

He was admitted to St. Dunstan's benefits in June, 1916, and became a boot-repairer and he continued with this right up to his retirement at the end of 1950 when he entered West House as a permanent resident owing to his failing health.

Wreaths from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends, and from his Brighton comrades, were sent for the funeral.

He leaves two grown-up sons to whom we offer our sincere sympathy.

Rifleman Wilfred James Razey, City of London P.O. Rifles

We record with deep regret the death of W. J. Razey, of Bournemouth. He was fifty-six.

He entered St. Dunstan's in October, 1937, but did not carry on any occupation when he left us the following year. He had been ill for a long time and he passed away on December 19th.

Sir Ian's wreath of poppies was among the flowers at the funeral.

He leaves a widow to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Sergeant James Herbert Banks, Oxfordshire and Bucks. Light Infantry

With deep regret we record the death of J. H. Banks, of Cricklewood; he died suddenly on December 28th.

Coming to St. Dunstan's in February, 1945, he trained in industry. He had been far from well for a long time although he had continued with his work.

Among the wreaths was Sir Ian's wreath of poppies from his St. Dunstan's friends, and St. Dunstaner George Taylor, of Cricklewood, was among those attending the funeral.

He leaves a widow and baby son. Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Banks.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 402—VOLUME XXXVI

FEBRUARY, 1953

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

The Pension Campaign Goes On

The British Legion is proceeding with its campaign for increased war pensions. On January 27th a deputation waited upon the Minister of Pensions and presented the Legion's case. County and Area Conferences are being arranged all over the country during the next few months which will be attended by national officers of the Legion. Already Sir Ian Fraser has spoken in London, Leicester and Newcastle. Speaking at the meeting in London on February 7th, Sir Ian said:—

“State welfare for most of the population has grown so much that with our necessary re-armament the economy is badly strained. Yet most war pensioners get less from the State in purchasing power than they got, if survivors of the first war, in 1938.

“Only those receiving supplementary allowances are actually better off. These 42,500 are the worst disabled of the 680,000 war pensioners. But the lesser disabled, affected by advancing years as well as by disability, are not always considered. The man who lost a leg in the first war and received a pension of 24s. in 1938 is among those lesser disabled. To-day, with the cost of everything more than doubled, his pension is only 33s.

“These men do not agitate publicly. It goes against the grain with them to demonstrate their own disabilities and, of course, the majority are able to work. But their pensions were awarded for the loss of the amenities of life, not for lost earning power. Yet who will doubt that many thousands of them would be earning far more if they had not been injured in battle?

“The war disabled do not have prior claim over all other disabled; but they should. They should be paid at least as much in to-day's debased currency as they got when the full pension was 40s. The Legion submits that an increase of 35s. on the full basic pension of 55s. would be an act of common justice. 40s. before the war provided the equivalent of 92s. to-day in spending power.”

All branches of the British Legion are being urged to send representatives to see their M.P.s. While realising the difficulties the Chancellor of the Exchequer has to face in trying to meet all the various requests that are put before him, the Legion hopes that he will bear in mind the particular claims of the disabled ex-serviceman in the next Budget. Old soldiers in all parts of the country would, we are sure, welcome most of all some special concession from the Chancellor on behalf of their disabled old comrades.

St. Dunstan's is grateful to the British Legion for its continued fight on behalf of disabled ex-servicemen. Many St. Dunstaners are themselves members of the British Legion and are taking an active part in this campaign for the recognition of the claims of the great majority of their comrades.

PAID
GREAT
BRITAIN

PAID
GREAT
BRITAIN
BRISTOL & GLOUCESTER

The Floods

The thoughts and sympathy of all St. Dunstaners must have gone out in the last few weeks to their friends in the flooded districts of Eastern England. We have heard with deep regret that H. Richardson, of Ingoldsmell, who had to be moved twice during one night, has since died. He was already a sick man and the fact of moving him in the icy conditions caused pneumonia. Mrs. Richardson is herself sick and our deepest sympathy goes out to her at this time. A fuller notice will appear next month.

As we go to press, the flooded areas are anxiously awaiting the high spring tides, but so far we are able to report that all are safe at Skegness, Grays, Gravesend, St. Osyth and Oulton Broad. At Herne Bay, A. Hedger's kiosk has suffered badly. At Canvey Island, J. Dunn spent several hours on a coal shed roof, but was subsequently rescued. Later he was taken to Rochford Hospital and Mrs. Dunn to Prittlewell Hospital. B. Lammiman suffered from shock and cold when he had to leave his home at Chapel St. Leonards. M. Costello was evacuated by boat from his house at Jaywick, his dog and canary with him, but has refused our offer for him to go to Ovingdean. He has to go each day to the sea-wall with milk and food for his two cats, who are staying put!

The Coronation

The Ministry of Pensions have allocated forty seats for St. Dunstaners and escorts to view the Coronation Procession.

St. Dunstan's has asked that space should also be made available for its charabanc to be accommodated on the route for the less fit men.

Full particulars of accommodation available and all details will be given in the next issue of the REVIEW, and St. Dunstan's men who desire to participate will then be asked to apply, and a ballot will be taken.

Coronation Programme

The Braille Printing Works, Craigmillar Park, Edinburgh, who print the Braille edition of the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, are issuing a Braille edition of the Coronation Programme. If any St. Dunstaner wishes to have a copy of this will he please notify the Editor of the REVIEW and it will be sent to him.

A Message from Miss Pain

I would like to thank the many friends who have wished me well in my late illness. I am nearly all right now. It was only a very slight stroke, which came at the wrong time. The doctor says that I must go quietly for a time so I will be spending some weeks with friends in the country, but I shall hope to say "thank you" to many of you personally later on.

DOROTHY PAIN.

Welfare Visitors Meet

A meeting of all our Welfare Visitors was held on Monday, February 2nd, to enable them to meet Mr. C. D. Wills, the new Welfare Superintendent, and to discuss and exchange views on various matters affecting the Welfare Department. Sir Ian Fraser presided, and Lady Fraser was also present. Sir Ian, welcoming the visitors, expressed St. Dunstan's deep sympathy with those men in their areas whose homes were in the flooded districts, and the assurance that St. Dunstan's would help in every way possible. At the invitation of Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, the party were later entertained to lunch at the House of Commons.

From All Quarters

Congratulations to Councillor Harry White, of Stalybridge, who regained his seat on the local Council in a recent by-election. He was elected a member in 1946, but was unsuccessful in 1950 and 1951.

★ ★ ★

F. A. Stringer, who, as reported in the December REVIEW, has been elected President of the 59th Manchester Company, Boys' Brigade, completes next month sixty years with the Brigade. He is the oldest Old Boy Officer in the Battalion. Soon he goes to the annual Battalion Camp—his eighth in succession—but not under canvas any more!

★ ★ ★

Thelma Meredith sailed for Canada on February 14th, on the *Ascania*. Bon voyage, Thelma, and lots of luck.

★ ★ ★

Eamonn Andrews, the well-known sports broadcaster, started our Walk on Saturday, February 14th, and later took Archie Brown back with him to Broadcasting House. Then, in Sports Report, he introduced Archie, who told listeners how our walkers train, and in general gave a first-rate broadcast. Walk details next month.

London Club Notes

The Annual General Meeting of the London Club was held on January 16th. The attendance was smaller than usual owing to bad weather, but we were very pleased to welcome Mr. Askew in the chair. The Chairman's Report and Accounts were well received. The Committee for the ensuing year are: Mr. P. Ashton, Chairman. *Bridge Section*: Messrs. S. Webster and H. Gover; *Indoor Section*: Messrs. W. Bishop and C. Williamson; *Outdoor Section*: Messrs. W. Miller and C. Stafford.

The Club is open from 5 to 10 p.m.

Monday: Institute of Magicians.

Tuesday: Whist Drive.

Thursday: Dominoes Drive.

Friday: Usually a free night.

Saturday: 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. Afternoon, bridge; evening, whist drive.

With Miss Ibbetson managing the catering and our good friend, Mr. Willis, always in attendance, newcomers will find a warm welcome.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge

The Bridge Section held its 16th Annual General Meeting at Headquarters on Saturday, 10th January. H. Gover introduced to the meeting Mr. A. D. Lloyds, who then took the chair. The minutes were read by Mr. Armstrong, one of our best friends. Then came the Captain's report, which was a brief résumé of the year's activities. He called the attention of the members to the fact that "interference bidding" could be improved, and also that many members were nervous of bidding Games bids or Slams. The Treasurer's report came next and with Sammy holding the purse this is never in much danger. He showed a loss of 3s. 2d. on the year, so this was passed.

The new committee was then elected as follows: H. Gover, Captain-Secretary; S. Webster, Treasurer; and Messrs. N. Downs, W. Henry, W. Bishop. The fixtures for the year were left mainly to the committee, including a visit to the Masters, a visit to Harrogate, and the Bridge Weekend at Brighton. We all agreed on our usual 5s. subscription and the gift of another watch to the Deaf-Blind Fund. If any St. Dunstan's bridge player feels like being associated with us in this charity, would he please send the donation to our Treasurer, S. Webster. The meeting closed with a few well-chosen words of thanks from Sammy to Mr. Lloyds for taking the chair at our meeting.

H. GOVER.

Ten Mile Handicap Walk

On January 24th we invited Roger Bannister, one of Great Britain's fastest milers, to be the starter and present the prizes at the Walking Section's annual 10 mile race. This was the more interesting as the "Fiturite" Company of Wellingborough have presented the Section with a marvellous Cup to be competed for annually in this race, and to be held by the winner of the Handicap. The day was extremely cold and the eleven starters soon got down to a hard race. At the half mile mark, Archie Brown was in the lead, closely followed by Billy Miller, Tommy Gaygan, Charles Williamson and the remainder of the field all bunched together. At 4 miles, Archie and Billy had settled down to a dog fight, and the positions between Tommy and Charles had changed, the former dropping to 4th, with the field now well spread out. At 7 miles, Billy decided to make his effort and won a fine race in 91 mins. 29 secs., followed by Archie, 92 mins. 27 secs., with Tommy third in 93 mins. 4 secs.

Congratulations to Dennis Fleisig for pulling off the Handicap Cup and Smith's 8-day clock. It was only his fifth race. Charles Williamson won the prize for the best improved time on the previous year, which was presented by our friend, Mr. Shuter.

Remarks: Archie felt fine; Alf Bradley not a bit tired; Dennis Fleisig a little tired but still game for 12 miles; Charles blinking cold; Billy not too hard pushed.

Come along lads there is plenty of room and some jolly good prizes to win. Training Tuesday nights. Start now for next season.

W. M. and C. W.

Ten Miles Sealed Handicap Walk

Order of Finishing and Handicap Times

Position	Competitor	Actual Time	H'cp. All.	H'cp. Time	H'cp. Pos.
1.	W. Miller	91.29	Scratch	91.29	5
2.	A. Brown	92.27	.30	91.57	7
3.	T. Gaygan	93.04	2.00	91.04	3
4.	C. Williamson	94.08	2.00	92.08	8
5.	P. Cryan	98.12	8.00	90.12	2
6.	S. Tutton	98.45	6.30	92.15	9
7.	C. Stafford	102.28	10.40	91.48	6
8.	A. Bradley	102.31	9.10	93.21	10
9.	L. Dennis	102.55	11.50	91.05	4
10.	D. Fleisig	110.45	22.00	88.45	1
	T. Denmead	Retired.			

Handicap: 1st D. Fleisig. 2nd P. Cryan.
3rd T. Gaygan. Fastest Loser, W. Miller.
Improvement Prize, C. Williamson.

Forthcoming Walks: 12 miles Walk—
March 7th. 15 miles Walk—April 11th.

I Remember

A further selection of reminiscences from St. Dunstaners. 10s. 6d. goes to the sender of each one published.

"Taters"

It was winter, and winter in a seaside resort can be worse than anything experienced in a so-called "distressed area." There was no food in the house, and no means of getting any. There was no "dole," and people would rather starve than apply to the "relieving officer," for the laws of the day had made it so.

I have been told that, in the days of sail, the Cornish coast folk used to make their children repeat a bedtime prayer as follows: "God bless Mum, God bless Dad, God send a ship ashore 'fore mornin'." That was our unuttered prayer, too, for we were hungry children that no one seemed to care about. So, when morning broke, we were glad to know that a barge had gone ashore at Foreness Bay with a cargo of potatoes, and had spilled its treasure all over the sands.

Soon there were many famished families with all sorts of transportation to carry the welcome stuff home. A coastguard patrolled the beach—but what cared hungry people for him—and the potatoes were rapidly transferred from the shore to storage in the various homes about the town of Margate.

Soon we sat down to a meal of baked potatoes—for firing could be gleaned from the sands—and our little bellies were soon replete for the time. But after a time the diet began to pall, and after three months I was sick of the sight of a "murphy."

Nowadays things are much better, thanks to the Welfare State.

I often listen to an item on the radio called "Desert Island Discs," in which various personages are supposed to have made their choice of twelve records, for perpetual playing whilst marooned on a desert island. If their diet in addition to these constantly repeated records was to be potatoes—and only potatoes—then I would wager that there would be no story of Robinson Crusoe from their lips, for, between the two evils—or rather with both of them—only the bleached bones would remain to tell the story of their purgatory. But perhaps there would become "taters" remaining to tell others of their pitiful story.

ERNEST E. J. S. BURTON.

In the Right Direction

I was living in Putney some years ago. I had lost my right eye, and the left had been rather badly damaged. As I was walking home from work a car drew up beside me, and the driver asked me if I could direct him to a certain road. As it was a rather complicated route, and, as his destination was near my home, I suggested that I should get in the car and show him the way. We arrived at our destination and I got out. Imagine my surprise and consternation when, on looking round, I found that I had been riding in the front part of a hearse.

CHARLIE KELK.

Rearguard Action

I was wounded on September 3rd, 1916, on the Somme operation, on the 6th, Blighty; by this time my proper age, sixteen, was on my chart. By telling it then I thought I would get my ticket. The nurses used to say "Come and have a look at our baby," and every morning it was "Come and have your nappy on, King." I was wounded in the buttock.

As regards my ticket, I did not get it. Early 1917 found me in the trenches once more and I was awarded the M.M. before I was seventeen and a half.

Bridlington.

A. KING.

Cycling

The Willesden Borough Cycling Association have offered to take any St. Dunstaners interested for tandem rides this summer. The Honorary General Secretary, Mr. S. J. Vygus, of 66 St. John's Avenue, Harlesden, N.W.10, will be very pleased to hear from any St. Dunstaner on this subject.

King George VI Memorial Fund

In the November REVIEW, it was suggested that St. Dunstaners who were not subscribing locally to this Fund might like to do so through St. Dunstan's. Mr. Askew, who acted as Honorary Treasurer, has now sent a cheque for £21 9s. 0d. to the Mansion House, and has received a letter of thanks from the Chairman of the Fund, Sir Leslie Boyce, for the generous response.

Placement

George Jessup, on light press work and jig drilling, with Messrs. Tilling Stevens Ltd., Maidstone.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I am wading in with a bit of ancient history just to help things along. I was a messenger boy at Lloyds, and saw both the funeral of Queen Victoria and the coronation of King Edward, but by the time of Edward VII's funeral I was in the Service and on parade at Hyde Park Corner—12 hours of it—Kaiser Bill was certainly there. Next I was at King George V's coronation, and this was extended over two days—first day procession proper, when I did not see the Kaiser, but the second day the suburbs were toured and it poured with rain all day. We were in the Borough High Street, with our great-coats parked in the gutter, soaked in sandy wetness. On this occasion I saw the Kaiser riding in line abreast with "Bobs" and Kitchener. He was, and indeed continued to be, Honorary Colonel of the First Royal Dragoons up to the beginning of the 1914-18 war—their badge at that time being the German Eagle. This must be the occasion to which Nick refers. Incidentally, I was in the Colour Party for the first function that George V performed as Prince of Wales, and a very fine pair they were, he and his lovely Princess—now our revered Queen Mary, bless her.

I also had the honour of being in the St. Dunstan's party at his funeral, and King George VI's Coronation.

Yours,

BILL LOWINGS.

DEAR EDITOR,

I really must hasten to reply to my friend, Paddy Conlin.

Well, Paddy, unlike Alan, you appeared to miss the second day of the Coronation Parade. Paddy, I was a first-class shot; in consequence had excellent sight, which was not even impaired by a black eye, nor did I resemble a monkey-up-a-stick being supported by one of our wonderful London policemen. You see, Paddy, my detachment was on duty in Regent Street, the second day at Temple Bar, and I can only suggest that you were reclining in the clink during the second day's performance, or maybe you had returned, together with your Sarge, under escort to your Battery.

I am never likely to forget that poker-like figure, Kaiser Wilhelm II.

Paddy, in my regiment you would have been sent to the glasshouse for at least

84 days to cool off, and your Sarge would have been reduced to the ranks.

I was also on ceremonial duty on the occasion of the funeral of His Majesty King Edward VII, which, of course, was a less spectacular affair, and we "rested on our arms reversed."

Yours sincerely,

ALAN NICHOLS.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was also present at King George V's Coronation, and to me they are colourful memories. Therefore I am very interested in the 1953 Coronation of Queen Elizabeth, to whom I had the honour of being presented before her accession to the throne.

I was stationed in London with the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, and was present at King Edward VII's funeral, and we had a very busy time with special guard duties and ceremonial parades.

Yours faithfully,

Manchester.

GEORGE RICHARDS.

DEAR EDITOR,

Let me congratulate Mr. Wills on his new appointment. I am glad to see that promotions are coming from inside Headquarters.

I hope Mr. Wills' first job was to tell the President of the British Legion that there is no ordinary infantry regiment in the British Army. I believe Mr. Wills served in the Devons as a private. If anyone went to Devon and called its regiment "ordinary" he would never come back. Perhaps Sir Ian meant the Shropshires, or the Gloucesters but now that the photograph of the President of the British Legion has appeared on the front page of the *Daily Worker*, I am not surprised at anything he might say.

Yours sincerely,

Ilford.

J. MACFARLANE.

Sir Ian writes: "This is a fair crack, my dear Mac. Perhaps instead of 'ordinary infantry regiment' I should have described Mr. Wills as 'one of the P.B.I.'"

Note.—A speech of Sir Ian's recently on Korea was widely reported. The gist of the speech is reported elsewhere.

Grandfathers

F. Ralph, of Rottingdean, E. James, of Darlington.

News from Australia, Canada and Malaya

Writing from Brisbane, Queensland, David Williams says:—

Doubtless you have been wondering how the studies went during last year. After the usual Governmental delays and red tape, we got away to a flying start. I had a wonderful time at the lectures. The university people were kindness itself. The professors and lecturers treated me more like a friend than as a student. Of course, they supplied the necessary cups of tea to spur the jaded mind along. One of the professors has a fund of "stories," and yours truly was regaled with the lot of them. At the end of the academic year the same fellow said, "Well, Dave, you may not have learnt much during the year, but you've had a hell of a lot of fun." I agree with him. But the learning was not quite ignored. I passed the three subjects, Philosophy I, English Expression, and Preparatory German with Credits in each subject. This year I hope to take four units for my Arts course.

We have adopted a son a couple of weeks ago—a wee mite. What with the visitors coming to see him, helping the wife, etc., my studies are being seriously neglected at the moment. But he is a lovable little thing and very good.

* * * *

Also from Queensland comes news of another St. Dunstaner. A newspaper cutting tells us that at the Royal National Show, at which more stud beef cattle exhibits were entered than ever before, one of the great victories of the day went to James Scrymgeour, of Netherby, Warwick. With a grand total of 11 first, four senior championships, two junior reserve championships, two seconds and a third, his team of Poll shorthorn cattle made a clean sweep of their section.

We have now had a letter from Jim Scrymgeour in which he says:—

"The far north of Queensland has for nearly two years in the vast cattle country been ravaged by drought, as in '51 and '52. These areas missed their usual heavy monsoonal rains, consequently thousands of sheep and cattle, the latter in hundreds of thousands, died. The loss will, in my opinion, take ten years or more to make the replacements of the drought destruction. Now these same areas are being deluged by floods and torrential rains.

Here on the Downs where we garnered in a splendid harvest, it has turned dry for the past three months, and rainfall is badly wanted.

I met an old Bungalow pal, 'Nic' Carter, now Eastwood, Sydney, when last in the Harbour City. He is still going well, does work in a plane factory connected with parachute work, and was he pleased to again meet the writer!

This little property, 400-odd acres of rich river flats, is now highly improved, and is also highly mechanised, with all modern power-driven machinery, and we handled 1,150 bags of grain and over 2,000 bales of pressed hay in the past few months. I am still able to swing the feed buckets and to assist in feeding and many other jobs which for years have always been my personal work. Mrs. Scrymgeour keeps fairly well but has a tremendous lot to attend to. Five men are employed on the place and the bookwork, returns, pay tax, transport, and the continuous strain has to be seen to be realised.

Both daughters are married. One son-in-law, late of the A.I.F., an ex-War 2 man, is now my stud groom.

I always have a tender spot for St. Dunstan's. My sincerest wishes to all. I trust you will leave the cold, fog and snow behind before long. As I write, it is as hot as the desert sands and 90 degrees in the shade. Daily we watch the clouds for rain. Such is the vast difference of Australia v. Old England.

Canada

A. R. Mallory, of Ottawa, a first war St. Dunstaner also, writes: "My family are all well and we now have four grandchildren to have fun with.

The canteen business is going well and we are busy all day. The amateur radio station is a great hobby for me, though conditions are not too good so far this year. Another blind man has decided to become a 'ham,' that will be five blind operators in Ottawa. Very good, don't you think?"

Malaya

Major "Ron" Bridges is Welfare Officer for the Blind in the Department of Social Welfare, Malaya, and on Christmas Day he broadcast on behalf of the Malayan Association for the Blind a message of goodwill and an appeal for help for that organisation. In his speech, Major Bridges

said: "I was blinded in Burma just before the end of the war, and it can be imagined what a blow this meant to my career as a regular soldier. But I was fortunate because St. Dunstan's were ready to take me in hand, give me training, confidence and a new hope. How many of the blind in Malaya have that good fortune?"

He went on: "We have good reason to believe that there are over thirteen thousand blind in Malaya, and under the present scheme, with the three buildings I have mentioned, we can only attempt to give education and training to a mere two hundred of them."

A week earlier His Excellency, Sir Gerald Templer, High Commissioner and Commander in Chief of the Federation of Malaya, had laid the Foundation Stone for the Gurney Training Centre in Kuala Lumpur, and paid tribute to the success of the Malayan Association for the Blind, "so ably directed by Major Bridges."

It will be remembered that "Ron" Bridges married Betty, the eldest daughter of Sir Clutha Mackenzie, and they now have a little son.

"Dear Sir"

On January 5th, E. R. Ettridge, of Addiscombe, heard a letter written by him read out in the B.B.C. feature, "Dear Sir." The subject matter was Cramp. His name was not given, but it was mentioned that the writer was a chartered physiotherapist.

Mrs. Condon, wife of C. T. Condon, of Basingstoke, was the writer of a letter read out on January 26th in the same programme. Her letter was a summing up of the controversy in the programme on Marriage, Divorce and Religion.

Young St. Dunstaners

Leonard Smith, Southall, gained his B.Sc. degree last year and is now in the Laboratory of the Blue Circle Cement Company.

Young Arthur Dakin, of Blackpool, played in the band at the Central Pier for Blesma and was also in the pantomime at the Grand Theatre.

Marriages

On December 13th, Constance Fishwick, St. Helen's, to Harold Pinner.

Personal

Miss B. Vaughan-Davies thanks all those who have sent her farewell and birthday greetings, all of which will be acknowledged in due course.

Chess—An Entertainment

Those who have experienced the tension and thrill of a "lightning Tournament" where the automatic "Ten Second" gong is timekeeper, or have seen the eagerness with which the youngsters of to-day get down to their game, will scout the idea that Chess is too difficult, too slow, and too dull for words. Chess, in fact, is a miniature battle fought out on the chequered board between armies of equal strength which march and counter-march, waging blitz or siege tactics at the whim of the respective commanders. In Social Chess the result does not matter. Style is everything. Play in an interesting and entertaining manner and you will have no lack of opponents, but let your style become dull and tedious and you will find them quietly slipping away when they see you coming. As long as the players are about evenly matched, each determined to play in an entertaining manner, it does not matter whether they are good, bad or indifferent, an enjoyable contest is bound to result.

The best way to learn the game is to get a sighted player to teach you. In addition, you will need a suitable board and men, also the pamphlet by Mr. Merrick, which gives detailed instructions as to the movement of the pieces and the way in which Chess games and positions are recorded. Armed with this you can start marching your miniature army up and down the board, drilling each section until you are familiar not only with its functions, but with the board on which future battles are to be fought. Soon you will be thirsting for more information, when "Chess Questions Answered," by Mr. Bonham—the blind Worcester crack—will fill the bill. Part I deals with the end-game and the functions of the individual pieces. Drill your troops according to the book of words and by the time you have worked through it you will have not only a very clear idea of what each can do, but an extremely vivid mental picture of the board. Part II deals with the openings, and by the time you have worked through that, you will have developed such positional judgment that any club will give you a hearty welcome.

May the coming years bring those who dare to venture, thrilling and entertaining Chess.

ALEC B. HILL.

From the Chairman's Post-bag

Replying to a correspondent who wrote to offer an eye for a blind person, Sir Ian Fraser wrote:—

"Medical science has not reached the stage at which an operation to transfer an eye from one human being to another has been found possible. Nor, indeed, do the most eminent scientists consider such an operation is practicable. The reason is that thousands of little fibres join the retina to the brain through the optic nerve, and it is considered quite impossible to join each one of these together so that they would remain separate cell formations. What would happen would be that if the eye was transplanted, and if it lived, the join would become a piece of scar tissue which, though perfectly healthy, would not function.

"No doubt the lecture to which you referred related to the transplanting of a piece of cornea, which is the transparent covering to the eye-ball. In a very limited number of cases, where the main structure of the eye is healthy but the transparent film on the front has become opaque due to disease, burning or other injury, transplantation has been found possible. The cornea for this operation is normally obtained from the eye of a still-born baby, or a person who has just died, and it is possible to make a will permitting a surgeon to take a cornea immediately after death. I supported a Bill in the House of Commons last year to facilitate this process."

Can Electrical Impulses be used to Convey Vision?

The question is often asked whether television can be adapted to convey visual images to the brain—in other words, can it help the blind to see.

Such a letter reached Sir Ian Fraser recently and as the subject is of such interest, Sir Ian asked a very eminent scientist, Professor E. D. Adrian, O.M., President of the Royal Society and Chairman of St. Dunstan's Scientific Advisory Committee, for his views. Here is Professor Adrian's reply:

"If we could produce an electrical version of the visual scene and transfer it to the surface of the brain, we might be able to produce visual sensations corresponding in some degree to the visual scene, but it is quite likely that the correspondence would

never be close enough to be much use, and at the present time the difficulties of getting the electrical pattern on to the surface of the brain are too formidable to make it worth trying to develop the method.

"The visual messages from the eyes do not go straight to the cerebral cortex and to nowhere else; they go through an elaborate nervous apparatus in the retina and in the brain stem, so that what arrives in the cerebral cortex is not just a reproduction of the pattern of light and shade falling on the retina, and what arrives in consciousness may depend on what is happening in the lower (brain stem) regions as well as on what happens in the cerebrum. For that reason, stimulation of the cerebral cortex electrically could scarcely be expected to produce the same effect as stimulating the eye by light. We do know, however, that sensation of light or movement of rather crude kind can be produced by stimulating the cerebrum, and it is conceivable that we might get more than this if we had a much better knowledge of the sort of electrical stimuli to use. If the surface of the brain were as accessible as the skin, it would certainly be worth doing all the investigations needed to see what could and could not be done by electrical stimulation.

"But the brain is not as accessible as all that. It can be exposed by the neurosurgeon with little danger at an operation, and electrodes and foreign objects can be left in contact with it for short times, but leaving a fairly large electrode system permanently in contact with the cerebral cortex is far too risky to contemplate. Even to work out the possibilities of electrical stimulation would mean extended experiments, and the chances of success are not enough to justify the dangers.

"Unless an electrode system could be kept in contact with the cerebral cortex, it is difficult to see how any detailed pattern of stimuli could be produced there. It is conceivable, I suppose, that some way might be devised, but as long as the scalp and skull come between the electrodes and the brain, we can never hope to stimulate it in any way that would give a detailed picture, even if we could do so by an electrode system applied to the cerebral cortex (and, as I have said, it is by no means certain that we could ever do so).

"If we knew how to keep electrodes

permanently in contact with the brain without danger, and if we knew how to produce the right kind of electrical pattern to arouse worthwhile visual sensation, there would still be the question whether anyone would want to rely on the elaborate apparatus needed to set up the pattern; but at present the brain is still too inaccessible to make it worth contemplating any practical development of the idea."

Talking Book Library

January Jewels

A half a dozen releases, ranging from the Second World War through a thriller and the story of a well-known opera to autobiography, comprise a fair month's reading. Condensed versions coming up:—

"The Second World War, Volume V," by Winston S. Churchill, reader Andrew Timothy, swings on through Sicily and Italy to the eve of the Normandy landings. It may be history but some of it is still news!

"The Boat," by L. P. Hartley, reader Gordon Little, hinges on the fact that a new arrival in an English rural community of keen conservative fishermen and wartime evacuees is refused permission by the former to row his skiff on their stretch of fishing, and the latter use him as their spearhead in a feud with the locals. Just a trifle long drawn out.

"Opening Night," by Ngaio Marsh, reader Robert Gladwell, is a pleasant little theatre killing, written by a most experienced craftswoman. In the event, it was surprising that the corpse had been allowed to live as long as the opening night.

"Manon Lescaut," by Abbé Prevost, reader Robert Gladwell, is the story of the opera. Try it, it is but one box.

"Undiscovered Ends," by W. H. Elliott, reader John De Manio, is the autobiography of a man who has suffered a great deal and yet, recalling his Five Minutes of Prayer programmes on the B.B.C., has brought comfort to many people. The book is gloomy and rebellious, and strives to find out the "ends" before the writer has qualified to discover the great unknown.

"The Quest for Corvow," by A. J. A. Symons, reader Richard Wessell, is the biography of a promising author who remained only promising by reason of misfortune and a persecution mania consequent upon his failure to become ordained into the Roman Catholic Church. Most depressing! The month's bag is but so-so. "NELSON."

In Parliament

The Far Eastern situation was debated in the House of Commons on February 5th. A speech by Sir Ian Fraser received considerable publicity. Here are extracts from the Press reports of the following day:—

The Times:

Sir Ian Fraser (Morecambe and Lonsdale, C.) said that our American friends should reconsider the issues involved. It seemed clear that there could be no victory in Korea unless the war was widened, and none of us wanted to do that. Even if victory was obtained, it would be a barren victory, because a republic could not be established in South or North Korea, nor could a joint republic be set up unless the Americans were prepared to stay in Korea for a long time to sustain the provisional Government by arms. There were indications that they wanted to get out. Unless they stayed what was the use of a bloody battle which did nothing but decimate the people and destroy the country?

The Manchester Guardian:

Sir Ian Fraser: . . . The cold war—the great struggle between right and wrong, between us and communism—must go on, but the aspect of it which we witness in Korea is the most expensive of all the struggles in which we are engaged. A movement out of Korea would not mean we had lost the war for right against wrong, for freedom against communism.

The Daily Worker:

The official American and British attitude to the Korean war prisoners question was challenged early in yesterday's Parliamentary debate—from the Tory side of the House.

The challenge came from Sir Ian Fraser (C., Morecambe and Lonsdale), who declared:

"I am bound to place on record my personal opinion that if it were possible to arrange an armistice in Korea, this question of not returning the Chinese and North Korean prisoner should not stand in the way. That may be a minority opinion, but I feel it strongly and feel obliged to say that."

In a moving and remarkable speech, Sir Ian said the time had come to do some fresh thinking about the whole matter of Korea, and they should invite the Americans to do so.

Ovingdean Notes, January, 1953

What have we to report from Ovingdean during January? Looking back over the month it seems we have been fairly quiet—but perhaps that is just by comparison with December!

In the main the weather having been quite seasonal, there seem to have been more entertainments taking place in the Home. In fact Mr. Cheeseman's Dance at the "Arlington" and the Dinner and Dance at the "Black Lion," Patcham, at which the Brighton, Hove and District Omnibus Co. and the Southdown Motor Services employees were our hosts, were the only entertainments to take us out, apart from the theatres, cinemas, etc., in Brighton.

Two Darts teams, one from Worthing and the other from Southwick, were entertained at Ovingdean during the month, and the usual Saturday night Domino Tournaments were held. January Sunday evening programmes consisted of two play-readings by staff, a return of "We beg to differ," and a gramophone recital arranged by Mr. Austin Laidlaw, whom probably many of you will remember used to come regularly to West House to give gramophone recitals when it was the Holiday Home.

That's all for this month—except Mr. Jarrold wants us to give you all an early reminder to limber up for Sports Day—so start thinking about it at least!!

Test Results for Last Term

Typing.—W. Bramley, J. Embleton, A. Howell, J. Nichols, T. Giles, E. Jordan.

Preliminary.—R. Freer.

Senior Reading Test.—R. Cameron, P. Giffin, H. White, D. Parmenter, J. Pryor.

Writing.—K. Branson (S.A.), S. Craig (N.Z.), J. Walton, P. Walker, R. Beales, L. Scales, V. Docton, J. Donbavand, L. Dennis.

Advanced.—G. Eustace, D. Parmenter, H. White, V. Docton.

St. Dunstan's Press Honour

The International Federation of Newspaper Publishers, meeting in San Remo, Italy, have honoured W. T. Curtis-Willson by electing him chairman for the remainder of the administrative year. He succeeds Mr. M. Van de Kieft, who resigned on becoming Finance Minister in the Dutch Government.

Mr. Curtis-Willson is a founder member and vice-president of the Federation, and former President of the Newspaper Society.

Births

BROUGHAM.—On January 22nd, to the wife of T. Brougham, of Liverpool, a daughter.

MOSLEY.—On January 17th, to the wife of J. Mosley, of Edgbaston, Birmingham, a daughter—Jane Veronica.

MOON.—On January 20th, to the wife of C. Moon, of Guernsey, Channel Islands, a daughter—Hazel Jean.

STOCKWELL.—On February 5th, to the wife of C. Stockwell, of Bristol, a daughter—Elaine.

WARD.—On January 13th, to Mrs. Ward, widow of our late St. Dunstaner, Edward Ward, of Dublin, a daughter.

Marriage

BURTON—BUTT.—On February 4th, E. S. Burton, of Westgate, to Miss Norah Butt.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

CAPLE.—To A. J. Caple, of Cardiff, whose father has just died, and to Mrs. Caple, whose mother, whom she had nursed for many years, died on January 7th.

HILLING.—To F. C. Hilling, of Folkestone, whose wife died on January 25th.

Wilfred Pickles at Ovingdean

Wilfred Pickles visited Brighton for his "Can I Come In" programme on February 18th. He never went to Brighton, he said, without visiting his friends at St. Dunstan's, and two St. Dunstaners were included in this broadcast. Stuart Craig, a New Zealander who was blinded in Korea, was interviewed first, and he was followed by William Young, who comes from High Spen, Co. Durham. Bill was a prisoner of war in Germany. At Wilfred's request he sang—most beautifully—"Just a'wearying for you."

Wilfred later described to listeners one of the watches devised for our handless lads and we heard it striking.

The repeat was on the following Sunday and this time Sammy Webster was included. (The B.B.C. had to cut the first programme to broadcast flood notices). Sammy—for 35 years a telephonist in Fleet Street—said he had been with his firm for so long that they took him down now and dusted him at stock-taking!

“ In Memory ”

Walter Ruddock, 4th Yorkshire Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of Walter Ruddock, of Middlesbrough.

“Wally” was one of our very well-known deaf St. Dunstaners, who came to us first in 1920. He was at one time a telephonist. He had not been a fit man for a long time and it was a great disappointment to him that he could not attend the last Deaf-Blind Reunion. He entered Ovingdean only two days before he died on January 9th. His friends, George Fallowfield, Bill Jay, and Wally Thomas attended the funeral.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Marjorie, his wife, who is known to many who visited West House, and who had lost her mother only nine days before.

George Fallowfield writes: “There was never a more unselfish man . . . he had a keen sense of humour and many a good yarn to spin. He was, in fact, a splendid comrade and he will be missed by us all.”

Private William Ellinson, 1/6th Royal Warwickshire Regt.

We record with deep regret the death of W. Ellinson, of Warwick, which occurred at his home on February 4th.

Wounded at Cambrai, he came to us in October, 1917, and trained as a basket-maker, but for a very long time ill-health had prevented him from working. He spent long periods at our Homes and returned to his own home only in December of last year.

We extend our very sincere sympathy to his wife.

Private Thomas S. Burridge, Labour Corps

It is with deep regret that we record the death of T. S. Burridge, of Reading, at the age of seventy-four.

He came to St. Dunstan's in November, 1926, when he trained as a mat-maker and netter. His son tells us that in his long and painful illness he talked often of the happy times he had at St. Dunstan's. When he was well he would sing what he called his “keep-fit song”—“You must have exercise.” His pals will remember Tommy with affection.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Private John Eastelow, Royal Field Artillery

We record with deep regret the death of J. Eastelow, of Willenhall, Staffs.

It was not until 1947 that he came to St. Dunstan's, although he had served in the 1914—1918 war. When he came to us he was already a sick man and we have for long been anxious about his health. He died at his home on January 16th.

He leaves a wife and family, to whom our deep sympathy is offered.

Driver James Noble, 16th Army Service Corps

We record with deep regret the death of J. Noble, of Watford, at the age of eighty-five.

Enlisting on October 5th, 1914, he was discharged from the Army two years later and entered St. Dunstan's in February, 1919. He trained in netting.

Towards the end of 1951, as a sick man, he was admitted to West House, where he had remained ever since.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Noble and her family.

Private Edward Patrick Horan, 7th Leinster Regt.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of E. P. Horan, of Dublin.

He came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1915, after being wounded at Loos. In addition to damaged sight he had also a very badly damaged leg. He trained as a basket-maker, but for some time had been able only to do very light work. He had spent several holidays at Blackpool and returned home from there on November 17th. He died on January 13th.

At the funeral service there were Mr. and Mrs. Joyce, Mrs. Walker (representing her father, R. Bell,) Mrs. Martin, of Bray (representing Barney, who was away), and Miss McLoughlin (representing Danny McLoughlin). Mr. Macauley attended the Mass and funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Horan and her family.

Frank Hyde, Australian Forces

We have heard with deep regret from Mrs. Hyde that her husband, Frank Hyde, of Sydney, New South Wales, died on May 5th last.

Wounded at Messines, he came to St. Dunstan's in the early days and did exceedingly well in basket-making. He returned home and continued with this craft as a hobby, but took a keen interest also in the Blind Soldiers' Tea Company.

He leaves a widow and two sons, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Oscar Vidler, Australian Forces

We learn with deep regret from a New South Wales magazine of the death of Oscar Vidler, who was one of the first six men in New South Wales to return from the Second World War totally blind. He was trained in Braille and typewriting but ill-health prevented any occupational training. He spent a considerable time in hospitals. He married in 1949 one of the nursing sisters and they lived at Woody Point, Queensland.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Vidler.

Paul Jensen

We have heard with great regret that Paul Jensen, of Norway, with whom we were in constant touch before the war, has died after a long and painful illness.

“ In Memory ”

Driver Leonard Smith, 74th Field Regt., R.A.

We record with deep regret the death of L. Smith, of Kentish Town, a St. Dunstaner of the recent war, who came to us in 1952. The state of his health prevented any serious training, but he spent some time at Ovingdean. He died on January 8th after a long illness. He was 29.

Leonard was a single man and our deep sympathy goes out to his parents.

Sergeant Charles Edward Brooker, M.M., Royal Army Medical Corps

It is with deep regret that we record the death of C. E. Brooker, of London, S.W.9. He was 62.

He enlisted in 1914 and served throughout the 1914-1918 war, and on being demobilised he was admitted to the City Police Force where he served for 23 years. His failing sight, however, forced him to retire and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1943. He trained in wool rug making, but his health became increasingly worse. He spent some time in hospital in the autumn of 1952; he was re-admitted on January 14th and he died the following day.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and grown-up family.

Private William James Alexander Rogers, 24th Royal West Kent Regt.

With deep regret we record the death of W. J. A. Rogers, of Tankerton, which took place in hospital on January 19th. He was 62.

Although he had served in 1914-1918, he did not come to us until October, 1949, when his age and health prevented any training. He had been far from well for a long time, but he was always cheerful and uncomplaining. On January 12th he was admitted to hospital, where he died a week later.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom our deep sympathy is offered.

Private David Makin, 10th Durham Light Infantry

We record with deep regret the death of David Makin, of Wallsend-on-Tyne.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1915. During the recent war he was very proud to be able to make his contribution to industry, but during the past eighteen months he had suffered greatly. He died at his home on January 16th.

He leaves a wife and family, to whom our sincere sympathy is offered. Mrs. Makin had nursed him devotedly for many months.

Private Wilfred Holmes, 27th Northumberland Fusiliers

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. Holmes, of Witton Park, Co. Durham.

When he came to St. Dunstan's in 1916, he trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker and, later, in basket-making, but for a very considerable time he had not worked owing to his poor health. His death, nevertheless, was very sudden.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife, who herself has been in hospital for some time, and to his family, in particular his daughter, Mrs. Fairish, who has looked after him for so long.

Private Arthur Lloyd, East Lancashire Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of A. Lloyd, of Accrington. Although he served in the first world war, he did not come to us until 1950, when his age prevented any training.

He had re-married only a few months before his death, and our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Lloyd and his family.

Private Joseph Spencer, Devonshire Regiment, attached Labour Corps

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. Spencer, of Knighton, Leicester.

When he came to us in 1918 he was already a business man, and he carried this on through the years. After a comparatively short illness, he died at his home on January 22nd.

Our sincere sympathy is offered to his wife and family.

Private William Sebbage, Royal West Sussex Regt.

We have to record with deep regret the death of W. Sebbage, of Moulsecombe, Brighton. He was sixty-one.

Blinded at Gallipoli, he entered St. Dunstan's in January, 1916 and trained in mat-making and poultry keeping, but poor health forced him to give this up some time ago. He had been seriously ill for a month, and he died on February 1st.

The funeral at Brighton was attended by two St. Dunstaners—G. Killingbeck and K. Gattrell—both of whom had served in the same regiment.

We send our deep sympathy to his widow and grown-up family.

Private Harry Oswald Garratt, Royal Army Medical Corps

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Harry Garrett, of Sherwood, Nottingham, which occurred suddenly at his home on January 3rd.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1919 and was trained in netting, boot-repairing and mat-making. For a number of years, however, he had been a very sick man, but remained always in good spirits.

Harry was a widower and our sympathy goes out to his family, and in particular to Mrs. I. Stapleton, who cared for him.

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The Coronation

I AM pleased now to be able to give particulars of the arrangements for the Coronation, which were briefly forecast in last month's REVIEW. The Ministry of Pensions have allocated forty seats in Hyde Park for officers and men and women of St. Dunstan's to view the Coronation Procession on Tuesday, June 2nd. The Ministry have also agreed to permit our coach (thirty seats) to be parked on the route in Hyde Park, for those who are less fit. We feel it advisable to set aside out of this total of seventy seats, fourteen seats for official escorts (i.e., one escort for four St. Dunstaners). The official escorts will be drawn from all sections of the staff who are in close touch with St. Dunstaners and well known to them.

A ballot will be taken for the seats, and as railway travelling will be difficult on Coronation Eve and the day after the Coronation, it is proposed to accommodate all those who draw a seat, at Ovingdean from Saturday, May 30th, until Thursday, June 4th.

Coaches will transport St. Dunstaners on the eve of the Coronation from Ovingdean to Marylebone Road Headquarters, where improvised sleeping accommodation (i.e., mattress, blankets, etc., on the floors of the London Club) will be provided for the night, together with supper and an early breakfast next morning. It is understood that everybody will have to be in their seats not later than 7 a.m., and St. Dunstan's coach in its place between 8 and 9 a.m. After the Procession, i.e., about 3.30 p.m., the party will return by coaches to Ovingdean.

All St. Dunstaners who wish to take part in the ballot should write immediately to Mr. C. D. Wills, the Welfare Superintendent, at 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1, but St. Dunstaners when making application should realise that they must be fit enough to stand the fatigue of a very long day. The names of all persons who draw a place in the ballot have to be notified to the Ministry of Pensions at once so that it will not be possible to consider any applications received after first post on Tuesday morning, April 7th.

The ballot will be arranged so that each of the twelve areas into which we have divided the country for visiting purposes will be proportionately represented, both as regards coach and stand-seats.

All persons attending will be the guests of St. Dunstan's, who will be responsible for all expenses, including the cost of the seats (i.e., £4 each).

Thirty-eight Years Old

This issue will be in your hands a few days before we celebrate the 38th anniversary of the foundation of St. Dunstan's, on March 26th, 1915. Actually the work began a

month or so earlier, when Sir Arthur Pearson, our Founder, received two soldiers in a house in the Bayswater Road, in London, while necessary alterations were being carried out at "St. Dunstan's," on the Outer Circle of Regent's Park. Sir Arthur had, of course, gone blind himself a few years earlier, so that he was able to give these early casualties from the battlefields of France the benefit of his own experience.

Sir Arthur, who possessed an amazing zest for life, and was strikingly original and of boundless energy, never looked on the tragic side of blindness. He once said: "There is much that we cannot see, but there is one thing we will not see, if we can help it. That is the gloomy side of our lives. That is the gospel of St. Dunstan's"—a gospel which has certainly been observed by all the members of our great family through the years.

I wonder, however, how many of you know that our original Headquarters was named "St. Dunstan's" because of the big clock which was bought during the demolition of St. Dunstan's Church, in Fleet Street, in 1830, and was removed to the house in Regent's Park by the then owner, the Marquess of Hertford.

The House in Regent's Park opened with sixteen war-blinded men as trainees. Soon after, the accommodation was filled to capacity, and by 1918 over 1,500 men were being trained. As our older St. Dunstaners will remember, additional accommodation had to be secured and adjoining houses were acquired as annexes. As Sir Arthur observed in his book, "Victory over Blindness," "I confess to some pride in the fact that though one could never tell what the future needs might be, we were always prepared, so that in spite of all difficulties the work never suffered because of its swift and often unexpected expansion." In 1921 we moved to the Inner Circle of Regent's Park, and many of you no doubt still have fond memories of those early days, and of West House, which was presented to St. Dunstan's by the Federation of Grocers' Associations in 1918, and our many other establishments. How long ago all that seems now.

I have just been looking through the first copy of the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, spelt REVUE in those days, and which was printed in magazine form with a stiff cover. It was published in 1915, "price 1s. net." The Editor, in his introduction, wrote, "Nobody wants this magazine, and so I consider it my duty to bring one out." He went on: "Everyone here is so jolly and full of fun that they cannot help being amused by all who come and go, and even those who stay." The issue contained articles ranging from "Rowing on the Lake," "Visitors' Day," a conversation piece between C.O.L.s (Corpulent Old Ladies) and V.A.D.s, and "Ships that pass in the night" (with apologies to the Officers).

The new series of the REVIEW began in September, 1916, and was described as "A monthly record of work and sport." The Editor was William Girling, with "the staff and the boys" as contributors. And one of the first articles, "The Captain and the Private," was about the late Captain Appleby, an amusing story against himself.

Many of our earliest St. Dunstaners have, of course, now passed on, but records show that Mr. Tom Milligan, who entered St. Dunstan's on February 11th, 1915, is still working as a foreign correspondent with a London firm. Tom, who was wounded at La Bassée in December, 1914, while serving with the Irish Guards, and first qualified as a masseur and later studied languages, is thought to be our earliest living St. Dunstaner. Our records show that the first entry is for "J. Batchelor—10-2-15," who is now dead, and then came Tom. Four days later came Mr. J. B. Selby, of Larkfield, in Kent, who still works as a poultry farmer, and on March 2nd, 1915, Mr. J. W. Kerr, of Widnes, a retired craftsman, joined us. Other entries for March of the first year are Messrs. C. Verbrugghe, a Belgian; W. G. Sewell, now deceased; R. A. Inskipp, a craftsman who lives at Westcliff now; and W. J. Hallam, who died a few years ago.

Only two persons who now work at St. Dunstan's can go back to that first year—Miss Goole, who was then on Sir Arthur's secretarial staff, and Lady Fraser, then working as a V.A.D. Miss Grimshaw (Appeals) came in 1916, and Mr. Banks (Pensions Officer), Mr. Durrant (Raglan Street) and Miss Leverett (Northern Area) joined in 1917; and Miss Appleby (Accounts), Miss Wilson and Miss Sailing (Welfare), and Mr. Doughty (Legal Department) in 1918. Mr. Askew and many others came the following year.

As we observe the 38th birthday of St. Dunstan's, let us pause for a moment and remember those early days, the birth of a great idea in that small hostel in the Bayswater Road, and the trials and troubles that accompany all new ventures before success was ours.

IAN FRASER.

London Club Notes

Bridge Section

An inter-club bridge match was held on January 31st; some severe criticisms and an interesting talk on the hands was given by Mr. Cyril Stokes, Civil Service.

On February 21st, the bridge section was entertained by Miss Hensley, who gave the tea and prizes for a very pleasant and successful drive of eleven tables. The prizes were won by (1st) H. Gover and partner, (2nd) B. Ingrey and partner, (3rd) F. Rhodes and partner.

Members of the Bridge Section are again going to Harrogate for one week commencing September 5th, staying at the Dirlton Hotel at £7 7s. 0d. each. Will anyone interested please let me know.

The St. Dunstan's Bridge Congress is fixed this year for the week-end of November 21st, at Ovingdean.

H. GOVER.

Indoor Section

The first Dance of the year was held at the Victory Club on Friday, February 20th. The attendance was not up to expectations owing to the absence of some of our regular members through 'flu. Nevertheless those present spent a jolly evening, dancing to Ronnie Bell and his Orchestra.

On Monday, February 23rd, members of the Tottenham Constitutional Club paid us a visit for a return match at darts and cribbage. Our darts team won the first two out of three games.

Watch the Club notice board for forthcoming events.

Outdoor Section

It was with great pleasure that we welcomed Eamonn Andrews, the television and radio personality, to start the race and present the prizes at the Seven Mile Championship for the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prizes. His breezy personality and jokes soon made us forget our aches and pains. Bill Miller gave the vote of thanks.

Before we report on the race let us first express our sympathy with A. Bradley and D. Fleisig who were both absent because of 'flu and its after effects—better luck next time, boys—and congratulations to Archie for the brilliant way he put over his B.B.C. interview on Sports Report.

The race started at a cracking pace with Billie and Archie tearing it up, closely followed by Charles and Tommy. At the

half-way stage Billy drew away from Archie, Charles tried to pass the latter but Archie was too strong, and all this time Tommy was pressing hard on Charles's heels. The remainder of the field had settled down and were all walking strongly, particularly Stan who finished 5th in the race, with Charlie Stafford, Dennis and Denmead finishing 6th, 7th and 8th respectively. All walked very well, but we are sure a little training from Tom Denmead will bring him right up to the front again. Do not forget Tuesday nights, 6.30, at Regent's Park. All are welcome.

Billy Miller again won the S.S. Championship for the third consecutive year, and Charles Williamson T.B. for the second consecutive year.

Handicap prizes went to Charles Williamson, Stan Tutton and Charles Stafford.

The 15 Mile Walk will take place at the Surrey Walking Club Ground on April 11th.

C. W. and W. M.

Seven Mile Championship Walk

Order of Finish and Handicap Times

Regent's Park, 14th February, 1953

Competitor	Actual Time	H'cap Allow.	H'cap Time	Pos.
1. W. Miller ...	62.14	Scratch	62.14	5
2. A. Brown ...	62.49	.40	62.09	4
3. C. Williamson ...	63.11	2.40	60.31	1
4. T. Gaygan ...	64.06	1.15	62.51	6
5. S. Tutton ...	66.41	6.10	60.31	1
6. C. Stafford ...	70.32	8.55	61.37	3
7. T. Denmead ...	71.21	6.15	65.06	8
8. L. Dennis ...	72.31	8.25	64.06	7

Prize Winners—

1st S.S. Section. Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prize.—W. Miller.

1st T.B. Section. Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prize.—C. Williamson.

Handicap Section—Dead Heat for 1st Place.—C. Williamson, S. Tutton; 3rd—C. Stafford.

1st Scratch Race (Medal)—W. Miller.

2nd Scratch Race (Medal)—A. Brown.

3rd Scratch Race (Medal)—C. Williamson.

Twelve Miles Handicap Walk

Regent's Park, Saturday, March 7th, 1953

Order of Finishing and Handicap Times

Position	Competitor	Actual Time	H'cap Allow.	H'cap Time	H'cap Pos.
1.	A. Brown ...	109.34	1.05	108.29	1
2.	T. Gaygan ...	110.51	1.45	109.06	2
3.	C. Williamson ...	111.14	1.55	109.19	3
4.	W. Miller ...	111.46	Scr.	111.46	5
5.	S. Tutton ...	119.15	8.30	110.45	4
6.	C. Stafford ...	126.38	13.05	113.33	7
7.	L. Dennis ...	127.10	13.55	113.15	6
8.	A. Bradley ...	131.39	12.25	119.14	9
9.	D. Fleisig ...	134.53	21.00	113.53	8

Handicap—

1st, A. Brown Fastest Loser: W. Miller.

2nd, T. Gaygan Improvement Prize: C. Stafford

3rd, C. Williamson.

I Remember

One Sunday morning in June, 1937, I arrived at our old H.Q. in the Inner Circle for the King's Review in Hyde Park in the afternoon. After inspecting the rows of barrels of beer in the lounge, I wandered into the yard where our boys were in various groups in conversation. Standing by a wall and looking very lonely was a chap with a row of medals up. Ah, I thought, here is someone from a local association to give a help with the boys as escort, so I thought I would make him feel at home. I got into conversation and we got on very well. He had been in the Navy and told me a good many of his experiences. We were together all day in Hyde Park. In the March Past we were strung out in a long line and he and I were arm in arm in Rotten Row, with all the sand and rural London under our feet. We arrived back at the Inner Circle. We had tea together. I gave him a strong invitation to come to St. Dunstan's Regatta and, as my escort, to the dinner at the Connaught Rooms. In fact, I told him all we did and that he would find himself welcome at any of our functions if he cared to come along. We shook hands warmly, thanked each other for our help during the day, and bid adieu.

A few weeks later I was at H.Q. with my Braille watch all in pieces. I had asked if it were possible to have a wristlet watch. They said I would have to see Commander Smyth about it. I said, right, I'll see him. They marched me in. There was my old shipmate of H.M.S. King's Review! What a laugh we had together.

Ovingdean.

WILTON H. BEDFORD.

"Good Old Doc"

It was in the early days of the last war, and Kingseat hospital was filled to overflowing and the hospital staff was undermanned. Through my wounds I could only eat slops, and not being able to use my hands to feed myself, one of the orderlies used to do this little task for me. One day I was being fed as usual and had eaten the main course, which consisted of some sort of stew. Then came the sweet, which would be a nice surprise for me. It was a surprise all right, but to me not in the way it was intended. I was told to open my mouth, and did so. But the next moment a terrific yell broke from my lips, as a very cold bit of ice cream fell

from the spoon and slipped down inside the front of my pyjamas. I told the person who had done this act on me in no uncertain naval language what I thought of "poultice walloppers," and him in particular. But worse was to come that night when the M.O. on his rounds stopped at my bed and asked me how I was feeling, and if I had got over the lunch-time incident. I said I had, but inquired of him how he knew about it. He laughed as he replied "I was the so and so 'poultice walloper.'" I learned later that as he was near my bed when my lunch was brought in, he told the orderly to attend to one of the other men, and he would see to me. Was my face red!

W. N. STEPHENSON.

"With Knobs On"

A friend and I entered a café for a cuppa tea and cake. We were served. My friend warned me, "There's a round knob of cream on top of your cake." I picked the cake up and took a bite. But my teeth missed the cream. As they sank into the cake, so the cream went up my nose, leaving a blob on the tip of my nose and making me look like Bonzo. I put my right hand to my nose and screwed the cream off, as one would screw the stopper on a bottle. I felt sure that my handkerchief was in my right-hand pocket. I put my hand in there but there was no handkerchief. There I sat, with a mouthful of seedy cake, and a noseful, handful and pocketful of cream. A lady sitting at our table waited hopefully for a repeat performance.

WALLY THOMAS.

Birmingham Sports

On March 1st the Club had a very good meeting, which was attended by twenty men. It was decided to hold a Sports Meeting, similar to the Brighton event, on May 10th at Salford Park, Saltley, Birmingham, for Midland St. Dunstaners. The events will be 70 yards running, throwing the cricket ball, putting the shot, hurling the medicine ball, standing long jump, and a one-mile walk.

Grandfathers

A. T. Croyley, Hook, Hants.; J. F. Davey, Swanage; W. Millar, Chessington; W. Heushaw, Halstead, Kent; H. E. Hill, Devizes (another grand-daughter); L. Williams, Billesley, Birmingham. (Our St. Dunstaner is, unfortunately, very ill as we go to press.)

Reunions—1953

St. Dunstaners may be interested to know that Reunions have been arranged on the following dates—this may be helpful when fixing holidays and other matters. The usual individual invitations will be sent by the Welfare Visitor to the men in their area for the appropriate Reunion. We hope that, especially as this is Coronation Year, we shall see as many of you as possible at these gatherings.

Reading	25th March
Maidstone	1st April
Manchester	16th April
Colchester	22nd April
Norwich	23rd April
Doncaster	25th April
Liverpool I	8th May
Liverpool II	9th May
Cork	15th May
Dublin	18th May
Belfast	19th May
Bedford	11th June
Cardiff	13th June
Bristol	20th June
Plymouth	25th June
Bournemouth	27th June
Nottingham	15th July
Edinburgh	21st July
Newcastle	23rd July
Harrogate	25th July
Birmingham	5th September
Brighton	16th September

Talking Book Library

Feudal February

One solitary release this month, dealing with Czarist Russia, although not a gripping masterpiece, does illustrate the idleness and waste of Russian landowners fifty years prior to the Bolshevik régime. This laborious comedy is portrayed hereunder.

"Dead Souls" by Nikolai Gogol, reader Lionel Marson, is a 19th century comedy of that period's usual wordiness. "Souls" in this context means serfs, and the hero, Ivanovitch Tchitchikov, is the villain, attempting to perpetrate a colossal fraud on any landowners he can find and on the corrupt authorities. The landowners are all potentially "nuts" but the hero is careless and fails to get away with his scheme, yet manages to extricate himself from its worse consequences. A little too long to carry its comedy successfully but, on the whole, fair enough!

Maybe I'm wrong. Perhaps the book is dead serious; then the author and I join the description of the landowners.

NELSON

Letter to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Alan Nichols' letter last month appears to contradict his original one in the December, 1952, REVIEW. In the latter he stated: "Our position on the route was opposite Sandow's School of Physical Culture in Regent Street. I shall always remember on that very hot June day watching the antics of a crowd of Germans, belonging to the School . . . *Another outstanding feature of the day was the Kaiser . . .*"

I said in my letter in the January REVIEW that he was mistaken, as it was not customary for a reigning monarch to attend the *Coronation* of another reigning monarch. I still adhere to that statement.

In his letter to the REVIEW last month, however, he stated, ". . . You see, Paddy, my detachment was on duty in Regent Street; the second day at Temple Bar, and I can only suggest that you were reclining in the clink during the second day's performance . . . I am never likely to forget that poker-like figure, Kaiser Wilhelm II. . ."

The inference here is that he saw the Kaiser on the *second day* whilst on duty at Temple Bar, and not on *Coronation Day* when on duty in Regent Street.

There is only one Coronation Day, and on that all-important day the Crown Prince (Little Willie) represented Germany. There was a striking personage on parade on Coronation Day, whom I assumed represented the German High Command, and no doubt he was also on parade the second day. He was possibly one of the Field Marshals—either Von Hindenburg, Von Sauerkraut, Von Frankfurter, or Von Hamburger. Frankly, I doubt if the Kaiser was on parade, even on the second day.

It may please Alan to know that I was not in clink on the second day. You see, there were various detachments of H.M. Forces, including mine, which were specifically detailed to represent their respective units on *Coronation Day*, and returned to their respective depots the same night.

Although I take umbrage at Alan's rather uncomplimentary remarks, I shall refrain from commenting on them.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that it has been known for even a first-class shot to miss the target altogether, especially if that target happened to be a poker-like figure created by a mirage.

Yours faithfully, P. J. CONLIN.

News From All Quarters

A. V. Law, of Stockton, although now retired as a physiotherapist, is kept very busy as a member of the local Coronation Committee. "Tina," his guide dog, goes to the meetings with him.

★ ★ ★

The *Blyth News Post* paid a nice tribute to Fred Mowtell, of Cramlington, who is now recovering from a long illness. Fred was one of their sternest critics, they said, but this story was one he didn't expect to hear about—a story of his courage.

★ ★ ★

If any St. Dunstaner and his wife are thinking of spending a few days in the Isle of Wight this Coronation summer, Mrs. Doyle, of Harlington, Great Preston Road, Ryde, would be glad to accommodate them at very moderate terms.

★ ★ ★

George Reed, of Weybridge, with his 14-year-old son, have given several ventriloquist and puppet shows together recently. George and Mrs. Reed recently collected 28 pounds of sweets with the help of customers at their shop, for distributing to the people of the flood areas.

★ ★ ★

D. Batchelor, of Ratley, near Banbury, is a very active member of the Parish Council.

★ ★ ★

Three white hyacinth bulbs, planted by the late Wally Ruddock, took first prize at a local bulb show on February 25th. Mrs. Ruddock felt very sad, but very proud.

★ ★ ★

Allen Bryan, who recently passed his final examination in Physiotherapy at Sydney University, Australia, has begun practising.

★ ★ ★

R. W. Slatter, of Alveston, near Bristol, has received a gold braille watch from his Company for fifteen years' good service with them. It is a full hunter, suitably inscribed.

★ ★ ★

Norman Wilkinson has opened a shop in Port Augusta, New South Wales, and is doing well. "Chins Up," the N.S.W. Blinded Soldiers' magazine, says "He purchased some old buildings, planned and supervised their reconstruction, and now has an attractive shop or two, with flats above. For a young man who returned from the war both deaf and blind it seems almost unbelievable."

John Wall, of Sydney, has purchased and

is operating a leading hotel and has been complimented by the licensing magistrates for the way in which he manages it. He is the only blinded ex-Serviceman to hold a licence in Australia.

★ ★ ★

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser gave luncheon at the House of Commons on Friday, March 13th, to five trainees from Ovingdean and four men from West House, who were accompanied by a sister and an orderly. The party had spent two interesting hours listening to the debate on the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

★ ★ ★

A German soldier, who was blinded during the war on the Russian front, would be very grateful if a St. Dunstaner would correspond with him in either English, or German, or both. His request has come to us from a friend who tells us that it was his very sincere wish to correspond with a St. Dunstan's man. Address from the Editor.

★ ★ ★

Sympathising with Sir Ian on his recent bout of influenza, Andrew B. Carrick, of St. John's Wood, sent the following lines:—

When your back is broke and your eyes
are blurred,
And your shin-bones knock and your
tongue is furred,
And your tonsils squeak and your hair
gets dry,
And you're doggone sure that you're
going to die
But you're skeered you won't and afraid
you will,
Just drag to bed and have your chill
And pray the Lord will see you through.
For you've got the flu, boy,
You've got the flu.

National Library Reading Competition

The 24th E. W. Austin Memorial Competition will be held at the Library on Saturday, May 9th.

Unseen passages will be read, and prizes awarded for fluency, ease of diction and general expression.

The closing date for entries is Tuesday, April 28th.

Full details can be obtained from the Editor of the REVIEW. Those who receive the braille edition will find them there.

Camp at Lee-on-Solent

Camp will be held from Friday, August 7th, to Saturday, the 15th.

The East Coast Floods

Much has been written about the havoc caused by the floods of last month, and of the terror of that night. How great was the plight of those living in the district is described simply but very graphically in the following letter which B. Lammiman sent to Headquarters afterwards:—

"I should like, if I may, to give you my version of that terrible Saturday night.

"All day long it blew a terrible gale from the north-west, and it was cold, but as we had had that sort of thing before we did not mind until night-time. About ten minutes to eight the electric current failed, so we sat in darkness with the gale more terrific than ever until about 9.25 when suddenly we heard a noise as if a pipe had burst. I went into the pantry to see if everything was all right, which it was. Then, when I opened the living room door into the porch, the water was lapping the step, which is about one foot from the ground. Mrs. L. rushed into the bedrooms and came rushing back, saying we were surrounded with water. Where it was coming from we did not know, so, grabbing my Wellington boots and putting a coat on, we made our way out of the bungalow. The water was rushing past the end of the house like a mill race, and before we could get to the gate we were up to our sit-upons in water. Everything was in pitch darkness.

"Then, coming down, we saw a torch light. We shouted and a voice yelled, "Is that you, Bunny?" The wind and roar of the water was terrifying. We had only just got around the corner on the main road when the water was coming at us from the back. We reached our son's house, and in less than five minutes there were over three feet of water, and it stayed like that for a week. Half of our village was under water; of about two dozen bungalows seven or eight were washed away, there is anything from twenty to thirty feet of water there, and the tide comes in and out as it likes. When I went into my workshop before I came away it nearly broke my heart. There had been over two feet of water, and the mud amongst my willows, etc., was awful.

St. Dunstaner's Coronation Song

Bill Lacey has written a special song for the Coronation. Will any St. Dunstaner who would like a copy apply to the Editor.

Births

BEAUMONT-EDMONDS.—On March 16th, to the wife of Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, of Sutton Coldfield, a daughter—Felicia Sarah.

CRABBE.—On March 3rd, to the wife of W. Crabbe, of High Wycombe, a son—Robert.

LEE.—On February 18th, to the wife of J. Lee, of Wakefield, a daughter—Rosemary Odette.

MILLER.—On February 25th, to the wife of G. Miller, of Sale Moor, Cheshire, a son—David.

ROWE.—On February 5th, to the wife of E. Rowe, of Minehead, a daughter—Felicity Jane.

TURNER.—On March 2nd, to the wife of I. R. Turner, of Scarborough, a son—Peter John.

Marriages

HEWISH—WILLIAMS.—On January 10th, B. Hewish, of Granville, New South Wales, to the sister of John Williams, another St. Dunstaner.

HOWARTH.—On February 14th, W. Howarth, of Brighton.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

CRUSE.—To John Cruse, of Newcastle, whose mother died on March 7th. Age 76.

MANNIX.—To Ted Mannix, of Australia, who recently lost his father.

PARKER.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. Parker, of Cowley, Oxford, whose baby son, aged four months, has died tragically.

POLLEY.—To G. Polley, of Southall, whose wife died suddenly on February 19th.

SHAW.—To G. T. Shaw, of Walsall, whose mother died on February 26th, at the great age of 98.

WILSHAW.—To C. Wilshaw, of Worthing, whose wife died on March 7th following an operation.

Young St. Dunstaner's Marriages

On March 11th, Elizabeth Hill, Crawley.

On February 20th, Duncan Alexander, Dalbeattie, to Miss Theresa McRory.

On February 7th, Leslie Straughton, Workington, to Miss Pat Chicken.

On February 28th, Winifred Isaac, Glasgow, to Henry Rintoul.

On February 12th, Bertram Lloyd, Cardiff, to Miss Elizabeth Webb.

“ In Memory ”

Corporal James Brown, *South Wales Borderers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of James Brown, of London, S.W.2. He would have been seventy-five this month.

Although he was discharged from the Service in 1919, it was only as recently as August last that he came to St. Dunstan's. His age and the state of his health prevented any training, and he had been for some time in hospital. He died on February 14th.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his wife and children.

Trooper Archibald Alec Biggs, *3rd Hussars*

We record with deep regret the death of Alec Biggs, of Saltdean, at the age of fifty-five.

Coming to St. Dunstan's in June, 1919, he trained first as a masseur, but later took over a number of public-houses and eventually kept a wine and spirit shop in Brighton, from which he retired in 1950. He had poor health for a considerable time.

He leaves a widow, to whom our sincere sympathy is offered.

Private Caleb Chivers, *5th Welch Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Caleb Chivers, of Clevedon, Somerset.

Discharged from the Army in 1915, he entered St. Dunstan's several years later—in November, 1931—and he worked as a netter until his health prevented him continuing. He died on March 7th, after a long illness. He was sixty-nine.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow and grown-up family.

Private Francis James Gibbins, *23rd Middlesex Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of F. J. Gibbins, of Chichester, at the age of fifty-nine.

He entered St. Dunstan's immediately upon his discharge from the Army in July, 1917. He trained as a physiotherapist and had followed this profession until his death. He had latterly been employed at West House, and he was at work there when he had the stroke which resulted in his death.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow. Cremation took place at Brighton. St. Dunstaners of West House formed a guard of honour.

Private Hugh Richardson, *Lincolnshire Regiment*

As reported in last month's REVIEW, our St. Dunstaner, H. Richardson, of Ingoldmells, Skegness, has, to our deep regret, died as a result of the recent floods in Eastern England. He was, however, already a very sick man.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1934 and trained as a poultry farmer, and had done very well until a short time ago, when he was taken ill. He came to London for consultation, but nothing could be done and he returned home. During the night of the floods he had twice to be moved. He was taken eventually to his daughter's home, but pneumonia developed and he died on February 6th. He was taken to Ingoldmells to be buried.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Mrs. Richardson, who is herself ill, and to his family, who have done such wonderful work to help them. Mrs. Richardson is not returning to her flooded house.

Steward Harry Sida, *Merchant Marine*

We deeply regret to record the death of H. Sida, of Lovedean, Hampshire. He was sixty-three.

Coming to us in April, 1921, he trained as a basket-maker, and he continued with this until his health broke down. It had been failing for a number of years.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Sida and her family.

Kenneth Cameron, *20th Batt. Australian Forces*

We have heard with deep regret from Mrs. Cameron that her husband, Kenneth Cameron, of Sydney, New South Wales, died on January 18th.

He served with the Australian Regiment from 1915—1918, and was wounded in the head and face, but he did not come to St. Dunstan's. He was, however, admitted to our books in 1936, and trained in basket-making and mat-making at Sydney Blind Institute.

Our deep sympathy is sent to Mrs. Cameron.

Private George Hutcheon, *8th Canadian Infantry Battalion*

We have heard with deep regret also of the death of our Canadian St. Dunstaner, George Hutcheon, of Toronto, who came to St. Dunstan's in August, 1917, and trained as a poultry farmer and netter; he also did mat-making. He returned to Canada and for the past twenty-three years has lived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tannahill.

Our sincere sympathy is offered to his sister, Mrs. Kingsnorth, and to his friends, Mr. and Mrs. Tannahill. His wife predeceased him.

Men's Supplies

Will all St. Dunstaners returning equipment to Headquarters for repair or replacement please be sure that a note of their name and address is attached securely to the article in question.

If this is not done, much delay will be caused by the Department having to try and identify the various articles.

Placements

R. Major, as a telephonist with Barclays Bank, Ltd., Old Christchurch Road, Bourne-mouth; A. Robinson, of Aylesbury, as a telephonist with the Buckingham Agricultural Executive Committee. He takes over from Danny Watkins, who has returned to South Africa.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 404—VOLUME XXXVI

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QUEEN MARY

IN the month that has passed, St. Dunstaners have mourned with countless others the death of a very great and gracious lady, Her Majesty Queen Mary. On March 25th the following message was sent to Her Majesty the Queen by Sir Neville Pearson, President of St. Dunstan's:

"Please convey to Her Majesty the Queen the deep sympathy of the blinded men and women of St. Dunstan's on the death of Her Majesty Queen Mary."

NEVILLE PEARSON.

The following reply was received by Sir Neville Pearson at our Headquarters:

"The Queen desires me to express her sincere thanks to you and all who joined with you in your kind message of sympathy."

PRIVATE SECRETARY.

A wreath of poppies, in the form of St. Dunstan's badge, was the tribute of St. Dunstan's men and women at the funeral of Her Late Majesty. It bore the words:

"From St. Dunstan's in affectionate memory from the war-blinded men and women of the Empire."

Much has been written about Queen Mary's great kindness, her thoughtful sympathy, and her noble character. Many will have their own personal recollections or special memories. We at St. Dunstan's particularly recall her surprise visit to our Headquarters in Regent's Park in June, 1938. We had been told at very short notice of Her Majesty's intention to pay us a visit. There was no time to make any elaborate arrangements, but this was just what Queen Mary wanted—to see our work in its ordinary day-to-day setting. She showed keen interest in everything she saw and asked many questions. Later Her Majesty sent a cheque for the purchase of a Talking Book for a St. Dunstaner.

When Queen Mary visited Brighton in 1946 for the Regency Exhibition, she had a special word for those St. Dunstaners present.

We mourn her passing but we will have proud and affectionate memories of her long and valuable life.

Sir Ian Fraser, accompanied by Lady Fraser, was present in Westminster Hall on March 29th when Members of both Houses of Parliament attended at the ceremony to receive the Royal coffin for the Lying in State.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

War Pensions

In concert with the British Legion and other societies, we have continued to work for improved pensions. On another page is a summary of the case we have put forward on many platforms, in the Press, and by deputation. We regret that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has not seen fit to meet our claims in his Budget, but we recall that adjustments of war pensions do not necessarily have to be made in the Budget or the Finance Bill but can be made by Royal Warrant at any time. We will continue to press the Government to deal with this matter in an adequate and generous manner.

Reading for the Talking Book

On a Sunday morning, unless I am out in the sunshine, I like to listen to a programme on the Home Service called "The Critics." It keeps you in touch with present-day thought about books, plays, radio, and other forms of art.

A few Sundays ago the Critics had been listening to the reading of books in the "Book at Bedtime" feature, at 11.5 p.m. on the Light Programme, and I thought their discussion most relevant to our needs as blind listeners to the Talking Book.

One of them said that a particular book had been beautifully read by a certain artist, but another said that the artist had dramatised the book to too great an extent. The reader should not impress his or her personality too strongly upon the listener, because what was wanted was the author's work and the personality of the character rather than the individuality of the reader. One speaker said, "The reader must not come between us and the book."

I thought this informed criticism put into words exactly the point I have always felt should guide readers of Talking Books. I do not go as far as to say that they must read monotonously, but I agree that they should not dramatise or act parts except to the very slightest extent to indicate a change of speaker.

Hansard in Braille

Some time ago a Member asked a Parliamentary Question as to whether a synopsis of Hansard could be put into Braille. The Minister, replying, said there would not be sufficient demand.

As a matter of interest, I have taken out the following two figures. The fullest synopsis or summary of the speeches made in Parliament appears in *The Times* newspaper, and in an average week it occupies between 15,000 and 20,000 words. One Braille volume of a magazine or Panda type book contains between 25,000 and 30,000 words.

I doubt if more than a handful of blind persons would want to read so much, and that is, no doubt, the conclusion—I think the correct conclusion—to which the Minister came.

Nevertheless the only political or sociological comment which we have in Braille is Commander Stephen King-Hall's *National News-Letter*, and I wonder if, without introducing a new magazine, a few pages of some of the existing magazines might not be used to reproduce an occasional extract from a notable political speech, an outstanding leading article, or an informed comment from one of the well-known Lobby Correspondents or sketch writers.

Early St. Dunstaners and Staff

My note in last month's REVIEW mentioning early St. Dunstaners and staff has given much pleasure to many who remember those early days. I am glad to be corrected by correspondents who give us further information this month.

IAN FRASER.

London Club Notes

Indoor Section.—On Monday, March 9th, our Darts Team paid a visit to Addiscombe and Shirley British Legion Club. The result of three keenly contested games was a victory for our hosts, this being our first defeat of the year. Our Dominoes players, however, retained their unbeaten record.

On Monday, March 23rd, members from the Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind Club paid us a visit. On this occasion we won two out of three games of darts, the dominoes players again won, and a jolly evening was had by all. A Darts team of twelve were the guests of Shell Mex-B.P. Sports Club at the Strand on Wednesday, March 25th. This popular annual event, under the capable leadership of Bill Phillips as captain, was won by our team in two straight games. Several of our players later won at Crib.

It is proposed to run a coach to the Derby on Saturday, June 6th. The cost is expected to be approximately £1 per person. Will members wishing to go please give their names to Mr. Willis not later than May 15th. In the event of there being more people wishing to go than there are seats available, a ballot will be held.
W. BISHOP.

Bridge.—February 28th saw the Club in action against a combined team provided by our old friend, Jack Armstrong, and our much older friend, Bill Henry—teams of eight. Result, a win for the Jack-Jock combination by a very small margin. Congratulations.

March 7th saw us doing battle against a very strong four from the High Command for India office (Hicomind). We received a thorough beating.

On March 14th we were very pleased to welcome our old friends from Lyons' Bridge Club, 12 a side. It was a very pleasant afternoon in every sense of the word. Here again we were unsuccessful. Congratulation, J.L.B.C. Come again soon.

March 21st saw eight representatives residing North of the river competing against eight from the sunny South. Bridge seems as unpredictable as soccer for the Northerners have a credit balance of some 1,600 odd points. We meet again for the second leg in the autumn.

On March 28th we again had the pleasure of a visit from our friends of the Civil Service, skippered by our old friend, Jack

Callow. I regret to say that we were well and truly beaten. Congratulations, Jack.

Brush up your Bridge, blokes, it is badly in need of a spring clean.

The London Business Houses League matches have now all been played. Paul Nuyens' team finished second in their section, playing ten matches, winning six, drawing one and losing three. The winning team, Civil Service, were only beaten once—and that was by our team.

"Tiny" Fleming's team, in their section, played ten matches, won two, drew one and lost seven. A good many of these matches were only lost by the narrowest of margins. Better luck next time! S.H.W.

Outdoor Section.—Twelve miles, March 7th, 1953. We were pleased to have Mr. Lale to start the race and present the prizes at the 12 mile race on March 7th. It was a cold but dry day, and we must congratulate Archie Brown on his splendid performance in winning the race (see what persistent, regular training can do). Billy Miller took a hiding and finished fourth—only the second time he has been beaten this season, which proved anyone can be knocked off his pedestal.

The two rivals were at it again, Tommy Gaygan and Charles Williamson finishing 2nd and 3rd. Now for the steady plodders: Stan Tutton is still improving and moving up the field. Alf Bradley wanted to die at 9½ miles, but a little bird told him to keep going and he finished. Charles Stafford is still hard at it heading for the Brighton road, and Dennis Fleisig, whose first season this is, was game to the end—watch out for him next season. Les Dennis, from Brighton, was with us again.

The first three men home caused our handicapper, Bill Harris, some embarrassment by taking the handicap prizes in that order—almost unheard of in road walking; restless nights to come for Bill.

Charles Stafford won the prize for the best improved time since last year's race, being five minutes faster.

We are still waiting for new faces and stout hearts on Tuesday evenings at 6.30 p.m., Holme House, Regent's Park. What about it, boys?
W. M. and C. W.

To All Sportsmen

St. Dunstaners may now obtain a hand-embroidered blazer or sweater badge at a cost of five shillings from Men's Supplies Department at Headquarters.

1953 Derby Sweepstake

The Derby will be run on Saturday, June 6th, and we invite applications from St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees for tickets in our own Sweepstake. No other person can enter.

Tickets are 2s. 6d. each and application for them should be made as soon as possible and will be received up to the first post on **Thursday, May 21st**. Every application must bear the name and address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required, and must be sent to the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. Postal orders should be made payable to St. Dunstan's and crossed. St. Dunstaners are advised to send postal orders or cheques and not loose money unless it is registered. Tickets will be issued consecutively.

The total money subscribed, less the cost of printing and postage, will be distributed as follows:—

50% to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse;

20% to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse;

10% to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse;

20% to be divided equally among those drawing a horse which actually starts in the race.

Miss Beryl Sleigh

Many of her St. Dunstan's friends were at the Salle Erard in London on Monday, March 16th, when Beryl Sleigh, C.I.A., gave a recital of songs at a concert presented by the Circle of International Art. With Miss Sleigh was Thora Hornsby, who gave a pianoforte recital.

Beryl's songs included the delightful airs by Haydn, "She never told her love" and "My mother bids me bind my hair"; well-loved songs by Schubert and Brahms; and, finally, a group of songs by Ivor Gurney, Frank Bridge and Roger Quilter. When, as one of her many encores, Beryl sang "Drink to me only with thine eyes," her audience was delighted.

Lee-on-Solent Camp

An invitation has come from the Navy asking us for a week's Camp from August 7th—15th.

Please send your entries along as soon as possible to Mrs. Spurway, The Vicarage, Holmwood, Dorking. Closing date for entries, May 6th.

The First St. Dunstaners

H. E. Hill, of Devizes, in a letter to Sir Ian, tells how he too was among the earliest arrivals at St. Dunstan's. He writes:

"On the 12th February, 1915, I met a lady (Miss Hesketh by name), who asked me if I would like to go to London to learn Braille and make string bags. She said it will open on Monday, the 15th February. I told her I would go on Friday, the 19th. The following men were there when I arrived: Cole, Jimmy Batchelor, Milligan, Selby, Harry Day, now at West House, Bill Kerr, Foxon, Billy Hallam, Kirby, and Jock Waddell were also at Bayswater. Sewell came on the 20th. Sewell and myself were the first to ever go to St. Dunstan's (the house itself). Wilfred Robins took us one day to see if the place was ready for us."

Early Staff

Sergeant Alan Nichols writes: "I was appointed Lecturer and Manager of the Lantern Slide and Film Department in February, 1918."

(We understand that this was a department of the N.I.B. in association with the Carol League. Miss Marshall was in charge of the Carol League.—Ed.)

Reading and Maidstone Reunions

It fell to Reading, on March 25th, to be the first of the 1953 meetings, and Mr. Wills' first Reunion as Welfare Superintendent. Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., President of St. Dunstan's, and Lady Fraser were the guests of honour at this very happy gathering of some sixty St. Dunstaners, who welcomed another popular guest—Miss Pain. As a tribute to Queen Mary, a minute's silence was observed.

On April 1st, Sir Neville Pearson was again present at the Royal Star Hotel, Maidstone, to welcome St. Dunstaners and to introduce to them another special guest, Alderman Dorothy M. Relf, Mayor of Maidstone, who was present with her husband. Alderman Relf is the first woman Mayor of Maidstone for four hundred years and she was a most popular visitor. She greeted every man personally, took the keenest interest in everything concerning them, and was delighted to let them examine and admire her magnificent Chain of Office.

At both meetings, a message of good wishes was read from Sir Ian Fraser.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

My memory is something I have been training for a number of years because I have to depend upon it so much. Therefore when I said that I had seen the Kaiser at the Coronation of King George V, and this was disputed, I had to discover who was making the mistake. The answer is very simple and has been confirmed by Marlborough House, the Lord Chamberlain's office, and a neutral, highly reputable newspaper.

The Kaiser was in London at the end of the Court Mourning for His Majesty King Edward VII in May, 1911. There was a ceremonial procession in his honour and he was in the parade. I was on duty during that parade, and while standing at the "Present" saw the Kaiser ride past. Subsequently, a few days later, when on duty opposite Sandow's Physical Training School, I had those Germans in view during the whole of the Coronation procession.

In December last, when I thought of writing to the REVIEW, I did not realise that the lapse of forty-two years had caused me to put the Kaiser in the picture of the actual Coronation Procession. Probably Bill Lowings fell into the same trap.

That is the explanation and I am glad to clear the matter up.

Yours sincerely,

Portslade.

A. M. NICHOLS.

DEAR EDITOR,

My wife gave me a deerstalker hat for a Christmas present. I thought some St. Dunstaners might be interested to know what a protection I have found it to be. The peak sticks out further than the average cap and is more rigid, and has saved me many a time from getting a blow on the face from half-opened doors, etc. The back peak shelters your neck from the sun and also stops the rain running down your neck! I live in the country and do a fair amount of walking about by myself, and will never be without a deerstalker in the future.

Yours truly,

D. J. M. STEPHENS.

Ferryside, Carmarthenshire.

DEAR EDITOR,

Why do so many St. Dunstaners, particularly men of the 1914-18 war, address V.A.D.s and, indeed, any female member

of Ovingdean staff as Sister? I am not trying to make a major issue of this, but often during the few years I have been a St. Dunstaner I have wondered about this practice. Like all the members of St. Dunstan's, I have spent a lot of my time in hospitals, and my experience has filled me with a deep and abiding respect and admiration for the nursing profession. I have learned to associate the title of Sister with a certain amount of authority and a great deal of nursing skill, acquired only after several years of hard work. There is no doubt at all that the word Sister is a rank and not just a means of indicating a profession. I have an equal admiration and respect for our V.A.D.s, but at the same time I cannot help feeling that we should remember the significance of the title and cause less embarrassment to the V.A.D.s by addressing them as Miss or Mrs., as the case may be.

I suspect that these observations will make little impression, but I would like to know if any other St. Dunstaners have held the same opinion.

Yours sincerely,

Ovingdean.

GEORGE ELLIS.

Nostalgia

*A summer day, a pal or two,
Time to accomplish all we mean to do.
Bill and Johnny—those two clowns—
Go for a walk across the Downs.*

*The mail is read, the papers scanned,
An afternoon trip in a coach is planned.
A cup of char, the morning break,
That reading test I've got to take!
A clanging bell, a rush of feet—
I couldn't give a name to that there meat.*

*Comes afternoon, and after that
Let's find Bert and have a chat.
A hurried shave, a stick, and now
If anyone wants me I'm at The Plough!*

Hatch End.

S. JONES.

Wanted

Would any St. Dunstaner offer to send his braille copy of the "Review" or "Nuggets" to a blind American living in Pittsville, Mass.? The Editor has had many requests from him and would like to help him.

★ ★ ★

There are a number of items in the printed REVIEW which it has not been possible to include in the braille issue. These will appear next month.

From All Quarters

From South Perth, West Australia, comes a cheerful letter from J. Lloyd. He writes: "In looking back over the years there is one thing that has given me a lot of satisfaction and that is the fact that I learnt Braille. . . . To Miss Pain and her Braille teachers goes my everlasting thanks. Although we are a long way off from you, the Christmas greetings from Sir Ian and the Christmas gift serve to remind us that we are still part of the band of St. Dunstaners who have received so much help and guidance. My best wishes to all St. Dunstaners."

★ ★ ★

From Australia, too, there is news of Norman Nolde, who sailed from England in April, 1952. Norman, who had a successful shop in Leytonstone, is now doing very well in a business in Richmond, Victoria.

★ ★ ★

We have recently welcomed to our "family" a new St. Dunstaner, H. Morgan, of Welshpool, Montgomery. One of his sons was killed in Malaya and was posthumously awarded the George Medal. It was a proud moment for Mr. and Mrs. Morgan when they went to Buckingham Palace to receive their boy's decoration from the late King George VI.

★ ★ ★

Another newcomer, J. S. Taylor, of Doncaster, tells us that he has reluctantly had to resign his Red Cross work as Quartermaster after nearly nine years' service.

★ ★ ★

Joseph ("Smokey") Britton, of Kingsley, near Pontefract, becomes a Knight of the R.A.O.B. on April 24th. Smokey is one of our handless lads and runs a successful fried fish and chip business.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. Margaret Stanway, who runs a boarding house at Morecambe, had a wonderful write-up in the *Sunday Chronicle* recently. Across its headlines it said "The landlady who never makes a mistake," and the article which followed praised Margaret's skill at cooking and coping with the food requirements of her seven-year-old daughter, her mother and the visitors. In a recent competition she won first prize against 150 experienced cooks.

Harry Costigan also "hit the headlines" in the Brighton Press recently. Recalling the fact that Harry was the first to broadcast for the old British Broadcasting Company at Marconi House on its first day of operations, it went on to tell of his varied career, including his tours with ENSA, and of his achievement a few weeks ago when he took part in "Tuesday at the Dome." He sang four songs and won immediate applause from the great audience. The headlines were: "Made First Song Broadcast—Harry Costigan Stages a Come-back"—a come-back, they added, to the concert platform that has been too long without him.

★ ★ ★

George Shed, of Hurstpierpoint, is in the semi-final of the Cuckfield Darts Competition. He is the only blind competitor.

★ ★ ★

Bernard Glover, of Southsea, has invented a new musical instrument which he calls the "accorganola"—a new version of the piano accordion which he claims increases and enhances the tone by electronic means. The prototype took three months to make with the assistance of a sighted friend. He hopes that a musical firm will take up his invention.

★ ★ ★

Bill Young received many congratulatory letters following his broadcast in the Wilfred Pickles programme from Brighton. Not only did complete strangers write in to say how much they enjoyed his singing, but for old friends of the regiment it was an opportunity to get in touch with him again. His fine voice obviously gave tremendous pleasure to listeners everywhere. Thank you, Bill, and lots of luck.

★ ★ ★

Anthony F. Naumann, of Palmers Cross, near Bramley, Surrey, and Mrs. Naumann (who will be remembered by many as Matron of Brockhurst, Church Stretton) are breeding whippets and actively showing them. Their stud dog—Sapperly Merry Monarch (affectionately known as Muffin Man)—is father of the new European Champion Whippet.

Placement

W. Hodder, of Hull, as a telephonist at the Ministry of Labour, Market Place, Hull.

Keeping Hens for Eggs

St. Dunstan's thought I was a clever chap and that I knew a lot about hens, so they started me right off. Now I find out I know nothing about those fowl birds. I was sent one of the finest poultry houses ever made—it is the pride of the village. I started off with twenty and had everything ready for them, even to a nice new basket to collect the eggs. The birds came and they were quite proud of their new home and soon settled down. Next morning I was up very early, with my new basket with plenty of hay in the bottom as the weight of eggs might crush the ones on the bottom and I was taking no risks. Into the hen house I went. I felt a little guilty as the only eggs I had collected before belonged to someone else. A word of warning! Never put eggs in your pocket. I once fell over a fence with 18 in my pockets. The results were too sticky, so we will leave it. I started to look for the eggs and drew all blanks until I came to the last nest; one of the girls was sitting quite content. She got up and walked out, stopped and looked over her shoulder and saw what I saw. Then she gave me a look as much as to say, "Take it or leave it; what can you expect, I am only a learner?" It was the prettiest little egg I had seen—it reminded me of my bird-nesting days, so I put it in the new basket and went into the house. My wife was frying bacon. She said "The bacon is ready, give me the eggs." When she saw it she said "Have I to fry it all?" The hens, however, soon made up for lost time and my basket was very handy. One day I went to see how many eggs I was going to get and one old girl was sitting and would not move. I was going to help her off when she hit me on the hand with her beak, so I let her stop for two days and slipped four pot eggs under her. She settled down fine. I went to see how she was keeping. She was standing looking at the eggs and then settled down again, as much as to say, "I will do it if I sit here for ever." Later I moved her into a little prefab I had made for her and put four duck eggs under her and left her. Another chap had the Prince of the Rhode Island Reds. It was always

on the fence yelling "I've got my eye on you." One day he saw the girl of the prefab come out and was on the point of rushing to meet her when he saw what was behind her—four ducklings. He stopped dead in his rush and gave her a nasty look as much as to say "I always had my doubts about you." But looking after those birds keeps me out of mischief and I feel very proud when people tell me they are a grand lot.

Newcastle.

BILLY BELL.

I Remember

Before common sense and experience taught me to accept the occupational training of St. Dunstan's, I remember trying my hand at helping a team of farm labourers to clean up and prepare for dispatch potatoes which had been sealed in a "pit, cave, or clamp," call it what you will, during the winter time.

After my first morning, having got in everyone's way, I enquired where we were to eat our sandwich lunch. I was advised to follow one of the party who was also just leaving. I hurried after his misty figure until it disappeared round the corner of a house. Turning the same corner a few seconds later, I hesitated at an open back door, and someone just inside, getting cleaned up at the sink . . . I waited, and as he completed his toilet, I stepped inside to commence mine. I believe my hands were soaking nicely, when yet another member of our party arrived, and, looking in at me enquired what on earth I was doing there! I hurriedly picked up my lunch bag, hands still wet, while he explained that I must have lost contact with the chappie I was following, as at that precise moment I seemed to be inviting myself to lunch in the farmer's house!

Eventually I discovered that we ate under a "lean-to" with some Italian P.O.W.s and farm hands.

I've often wondered what the farmer told his wife, as he definitely saw me begin my ablutions. Isn't it amazing what one can get away with?

ALFRED G. BRADLEY.

West Harrow.

War Pensions Again Debated

In the House of Commons on April 2nd, Sir Ian Fraser said:

"Her Majesty's Government have decided to ask Parliament later in the year to consider the merging of the Ministry of Pensions into a new Ministry, to be called the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance . . . This Motion will come before the House and I do not propose to deal with it for more than a minute now, but I think it right at this early stage to place on record the fact that, within my knowledge, the British Legion, Blesma, St. Dunstan's and, I fancy, most other organisations concerned with the welfare of ex-Service men are most anxious about this merger. They feel that they will be losing a friend in the Ministry of Pensions; a friend with whom we have argued many times but who, nevertheless, has over the years come to know our needs.

"However well the new machinery may work, we doubt whether the well-being of ex-Servicemen will, when they are only part of a big Ministry, be so well cared for as it has been during the past years, when they have had what they regard as their own Ministry. However, final judgment on whether the merger is a good thing or not will, in my view, depend much more upon what Governments do for disabled ex-Servicemen by way of improving their war pensions.

"The British Legion asks that the basic rate of war pensions should be increased to 90s. a week. This does not mean that hundreds of thousands of men are to have 90s. a week. . . . Last year Her Majesty's Government gave a rise of 10s. a week on the 100 per cent. basic rate. That was the highest rise we had had and involved more money than all the benefits that had been provided for war pensioners in the past six or eight years. Nevertheless, it did not give everybody 10s. a week. It gave to war pensioners an average of 4s. 0½d. a week. At the same time, in the same Budget, about that amount was taken away.

"We claim that the basic rate of war pensions is, as a whole, 38 per cent. below

what it ought to be if it were put in its proper place in the cost of living scale. Our argument is not so much that we want a rise, or even a preference, but that we have been left behind, and that our disabled men ought to be put in their right place in the cost of living scale.

"What we ask is that the Government shall accept the principle that compensation for loss of limb, health or sight should at least be on the basis that it buys now as much as it did in earlier years. I say without contradiction that the basic rate of war pensions buys less to-day than it has done at any time in the last 30 years. That surely is a *prima facie* case for action or for inquiry.

"The Budget is due on Tuesday week. We earnestly hope that it may contain provisions which will recognise the duty which this great nation owes to its disabled ex-Service men and women."

In a brief debate, Sir Ian was supported by Members of both sides of the House.

Mr. Heathcoat Amory, Minister of Pensions, replying, doubted whether any Government could vary pensions automatically with rises in the cost of living, unless it agreed to do something downward if and when the cost of living fell. The best service any Government could render was to try to kill inflation.

Fortunately a majority of war pensioners were able to be employed and so were benefitting from wage increases.

The Liverpool Club

The sympathy of the Club goes out to Mrs. Alex Wright in the grief caused by the untimely death of her husband. We all feel this as a personal loss and our Club meetings will seem sadly different for a long time to come. Alex served us well as Hon. Treasurer and his help will be missed. He was one of the founder members of the Club and this fact in itself only serves to accentuate his absence, for he was known above all things for his constant cheerfulness and eagerness to be friendly.

G. W. ELLIS.

Because of the Rum

A grim silent figure stood in the black shadow of a barn, from which came discordant voices, cursing those who had failed to issue the rum due after a wearisome trudge back from the trenches. Old Pat Casey, whose ribbons denoted service in South Africa, was too astute a soldier to incite disorder, or indulge in empty, mutinous abuse, instead he decided upon, and posted himself for effective action.

Presently a form emerged from the darkness, a bulky object in his arms, and after disappearing into the seargeant's billet, soon came out empty-handed, to rejoin his fellow N.C.O.s taking coffee in the farmhouse. Casey slipped stealthily into the said billet, a lighted match revealing a suspiciously neat pile of straw, from which his nimble fingers extracted the missing section rum. "Come along, me little darling," he murmured triumphantly, "the boys be waiting for ye." But outside, the keen night air prompted him to first fortify himself. Hastening to the improvised cookhouse, a corrugated iron lean-to, he kicked the dying fire into flames, and lay snugly down, his mess tin liberally supplied with rum. He soon felt at peace with the world, sergeants included. He replenished his tin, and presently the strong spirit and fire's glow induced drowsiness, and he fell asleep.

His slumbers, however, were rudely disturbed. In wild alarm he sprang to his feet, the seat of his tunic and pants ablaze. "Mither of Aul Oirelnmecu on me," he yelled wildly. "The devil has me at last, for all afoire I be."

Now Pat feared no man nor tangible danger, but this sudden envelopment in fire and smoke was too much for his muddled senses and national dread of the supernatural, and he fled wildly for the safety of his billet. This frenzied onrush fanned the incendiary still more.

The willing hands of his grinning comrades promptly relieved his perilous plight by the simple expedient of rolling him along the puddly mire.

"Oh boyes, 'tis from hell ye've grabbed me, or mebbe from those thaiving sergeants, but in yon tin hut ye'll foind your rum, but 'tis to be water for this puir Oirishman till me dying day," he gasped, as he stood there, charred and smoke-begrimed.

"Good old Casey," grinned the section.

W. GIRLING.

The Last Thing I Saw

This article was found among her husband's papers by Mrs. Appleby, who sent it to Sir Ian. It carries with it a message of such sincerity that we think St. Dunstaners will like to read it.—ED.

★ ★ ★

"To meet the worst that fate can send and to wring courage from it instead of despair—that is success."

Booth Tarkington, who will be known to readers as the author of that famous book, "Monsieur Beaucaire," wrote those lines to me many years ago after a happy meeting in America.

I had travelled much on the Continent of Europe, and even further afield to Egypt and India before the war, and had always been struck by the misery and dejection, often accompanied by disease, of the foreign blind beggar. He had always made me feel that he was the poorest of all human species.

On the evening of July 6th, 1915, I was taking my Company up to the front line to occupy our position on Pilken Ridge, and I passed a blind beggar clad in rags sitting by the roadside, and filthy beyond description.

I think in those days one's soul was more easily touched, and I felt that I must give him all I could; my all being only a few franks, but as I dropped them into his can I registered the prayer almost audibly, "May God grant that I never be like you."

Within twelve hours I was physically blind for life.

A strange answer to my prayer you will say, but I do not think so.

Wars are made by man, and the loss of my sight, I felt even from the first, was due in no way to divine direction, but to the foolishness of man.

How then was my prayer answered?

From that very moment life became richer to me in all those things we believe are controlled and directed by God, if we will give him the opportunity.

I have been given a vast number of friends all over the world. Ex-Service men have given me equality with sighted men in the mutual building up of our organisation.

I am rich by the affection of most, and have no enemies.

The last thing I saw taught me how not to live when blind, but rather how, by work and play, the mind and body could be brought into tune, giving me courage to face the future, and with this faith has come the richest of all earthly blessings, "The true comradeship of man."

Ovingdean Notes

Before telling you about some of the things which have taken place at Ovingdean during the last few weeks, there are two items of interest to local St. Dunstaners. So make a note of these two dates! Firstly, the Farmer Cup Walking Race at Brighton will be held this year on Saturday, May 30th, starting at 3 p.m. from the Sun Terrace, Madeira Drive. Please will as many of you as possible come along to cheer the competitors on their way? Secondly, the date of Ovingdean Sports Day has been fixed for Saturday, July 11th, and again we are hoping for a record number of entries and a big crowd of spectators.

The end of term seemed to arrive quickly once March was reached, and at the end of that month away went the trainees for their Easter holiday, whilst Ovingdean prepared to receive other St. Dunstaners, and by Good Friday the house was pretty well full. On both Saturday and Easter Monday two coaches of men went off to Plumpton Races, and on Saturday evening one of the regular Whist and Domino Tournaments for local St. Dunstaners was held in the Winter Garden.

The weather, of course, was not too bright, and rather blustery, and therefore the coach drives were particularly popular. Several of these were arranged for the holiday week, and Arundel and Drusillas, at Alfriston, were amongst the places visited.

Easter Services in the Ovingdean Chapel were conducted by the Reverend W. J. Taylor, and were well attended.

On Easter Saturday we were very pleased to receive a visit from Sir Ian and Lady Fraser.

A thoroughly varied week of entertainments, in which we hope that everyone here on holiday found pleasure in one form or another, was rounded off last Sunday evening with a Concert in the Lounge before a most appreciative audience. Bill Young, who not so long ago broadcast in the Wilfred Pickles programme, entertained us with songs and his harmonica, and Gwennie Obern, holidaying at Port Hall, sang beautifully, as did Joe Doubler, who lives locally and came up to Ovingdean specially for the Concert. Our thanks, too, to Miss Chidleigh for her contribution to a most enjoyable evening.

Retirement

Many St. Dunstaners who were trained at Church Stretton and Ovingdean will learn with regret of Mr. K. Norman's retirement because of ill-health. He will be remembered by many for his work in the Machine Shop during the past nine years. We now at Ovingdean know that many ex-trainees will join with us in hoping that in his retirement his health will improve and that he will from time to time visit us here.

Test Results

Typing Test.—R. Armstrong, J. Padley, A. Barnes (Officer), J. Shirlaw, R. Swannell, J. Walker.

Preliminary Test.—A. Barnes (Officer), T. Giles, J. Donbavand, R. Armstrong.

Writing Test.—T. Giles.

Advanced.—P. Walker, J. Oriel (Officer), A. Barnes (Officer), J. Padley.

National Laying Test

Report for 12th month ended
February 15th

		<i>Score Value to date</i>
1.	W. Alan Smith	531
2.	Philip Bagwell	460
3.	W. Webb	418
4.	Percy Holmes	397
5.	T. D. Gregory	244
6.	G. C. Jackson	223

Average per bird to date, 67.51.

Freedom

I have felt the chill whip of the dawn in
my face,

I have laughed in the wind at its worst;
And I've joyed with the sun in his swift
morning chase

Of the shadows the hedgerows have nursed.
I have walked on the hills at the green
valley's brim;

I have printed the sheen-silvered dew;
And I've joyed with the birds in their great
pealing hymn

As it broke from the woodland anew.
I have lain 'neath the trees with their deep
arching boughs,

I have watched with my candles the stars;
And I joy in the freedom reflection endows,
And I grope not around for the bars.

ANTHONY LAW.

Young St. Dunstaners

Peter, the twin son of J. S. Whitlam, of Westcliff-on-Sea, passed the Institute of Bankers' examination last summer and came first in all England, winning the Beckett Memorial Prize.

Jack Loram (Brixham) is now a full Lieutenant in the Navy and is stationed at Torpoint, on H.M.S. *Raleigh*. He is an instructor.

Stanislaus Sephton, with his bride, has sailed to Burma to take up an appointment.

Ian Marsden has won a medal for the best aggregate in Alderholt Rifle Club for 1952.

Marriages

On April 6th, Marjorie Shaw, Ashton-in-Makerfield, to Peter Cox.

On March 21st, Douglas Kerr, Widnes, to Miss Lucy Hazelhurst.

The son of G. Jackson, of Ashford, was married on April 4th.

Maureen Robinson, of Scarborough, on March 28th.

On December 20th, 1952, at St. Mark's Church, Cheltenham, Harold Dembensi to Eileen May Taylor.

On Easter Monday, the son of A. T. Brooks, of Bournemouth.

In March, Mary Ashe, Lancing.

Out of the Past

During the war, a Comforts Fund for sons of St. Dunstaners was organised by Matron Boyd Rochfort and subsequently carried on by Matron Pain and her helpers. Later, Matron Vaughan-Davies continued from Blackpool, and when the war ended she still held several small gifts and a sum of money. Since the closing of the Blackpool Home, Miss Davies of the Linen Room has prepared a list of some two thousand names of sons and daughters of St. Dunstaners, a draw took place on February 15th, and nine lucky ones came out—Gwendoline Anderson (now Gwenny Bracey), Eleanor Meckin, A. Simmons, G. E. Thornton, Kathleen Hills (now Kathleen Howlett), D. J. Chambers, Winifred Abbey, Enid Kenward and M. Hall. The gifts have been dispatched, and Miss Vaughan-Davies breathes again!

Grandfathers

W. Muir, Whitley Bay; G. Jackson, Ashford; R. Popple, Llandebie; A. S. Henderson, Dagenham (twins for the second time, making eleven grandchildren); W. Smith, Parbold, Wigan; T. Jarman, Bournemouth (another grandson); H. Marsden, Alderholt. J. G. Rose, East Lothian, a grand-daughter.

Births

BROUGHAM.—To the wife of T. Brougham, of Speke, a daughter—Jean.

COPE.—On April 5th, to the wife of H. R. Cope, of Stoke-on-Trent, a daughter.

GODING.—On March 13th, to the wife of R. J. Goding, of Reading, a daughter—Janet.

SPRING.—On March 7th, to the wife of P. Spring, of Chessington North, Surrey, a son—Anthony Joseph.

STUART.—On March 22nd, to the wife of J. Stuart, of High Wycombe, a daughter—Suzanne Eileen.

TURNER.—On March 2nd, to the wife of I. R. Turner, of Skipton, a son—Peter John. (Amended notice.)

WHITE.—On February 15th, to the wife of L. A. White, of Mount Albert, Auckland, New Zealand, a daughter—Melanie May.

Marriages

GARTHWAITE—SHEPHARD.—In Rotherham, on February 9th, 1952, E. Garthwaite, lately of Rotherham, now of Plumstead, to Mrs. Lucy Shephard.

PADLEY—HIRON.—Jim Padley (training at Ovingdean) married Patricia Hiron on April 2nd, 1953, at Brighton.

RAYNER—MASKELL.—On April 4th, Albert Rayner, of Gateshead, to Alice Edith Maskell.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

BALLARD.—To A. W. Ballard, of Nottingham, whose wife died in hospital on November 4th, after great suffering. (We must apologise for the lateness of this notice.)

BRYDSON.—To S. Brydson, of Gasstown, Dumfries, whose wife has died. Our St. Dunstaner is himself a sick man and he will be coming to West House.

HAMILTON.—To J. Hamilton, of Nottingham, who has lost his father.

HARDING.—To R. Harding, of Southbourne, whose mother died recently.

SEYMOUR.—To W. Seymour, of Regent's Park, whose sister died in January.

WINDLEY.—To Harry Windley, of Hull, whose mother died on March 8th.

* * *

We have heard with deep regret that Mrs. Jack Vincent's mother died recently as the result of an accident near her daughter's home at Maidenhead.

“ In Memory ”

Private Sidney Batten, 17th Essex Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of S. Batten, of Bridgewater, Somerset.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1919, and it was from the Bungalow in that year that he and Mrs. Batten were married. He worked at mat-making for many years, but later transferred to netting. His health, however, had not been good in recent months and he died suddenly on March 13th.

The funeral took place at Quantock Road Cemetery. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack. A St. Dunstaner comrade, Mr. Bob Sheehan, was present, with Mrs. Sheehan. Sir Ian Fraser's wreath of poppies was among the flowers.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Mrs. Batten and her sons.

Gunner Henry Buchanan, Royal Field Artillery

With deep regret we record the death of H. Buchanan, of Folkestone, which occurred on April 5th, at the age of sixty-four.

When he came to us in October, 1925, he trained in telephony, but he retired from this work in 1947 and settled in Folkestone.

A wreath of poppies from Sir Ian was among the flowers at the funeral.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Private Alfred Walter Bundy, 1/5th Batt. Gloucestershire Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Alf Bundy, of Gloucester. He was fifty-six.

Wounded on the Somme, he entered St. Dunstan's in December, 1916. For a time he did boot-repairing, then he took a shop. Later he gave this up and trained in telephony and as a telephonist he worked with Shell Mex and B.P., Ltd., until his death. Early in March he was admitted to hospital and he died there on the 13th.

At his express wish, his friends sent donations to St. Dunstan's, instead of flowers, and it is clear from the messages which came with them that he was deeply loved and respected. "My friend, telephone operator and gallant gentleman . . ." wrote an executive of his firm. "An English gentleman, friend and telephone operator whose face at the window beside his board will be greatly missed by us all . . ." The Supervisors and Staff, Gloucester Telephone Exchange, wrote: "One of our most cheerful subscribers." The Post Office Engineering Staff referred to him as "the perfect operator."

Nearly five hundred people attended his funeral, including representatives of Shell Mex and B.P., Ltd., the British Legion, the 1/5th Battalion Gloucester Regiment O.C. Association, and Toc H, Gloucester Branch, of which he was a founder member. St. Dunstan's wreath of poppies was placed on the coffin with the family cross.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife, daughter and son.

Private George Robert Coxon, K.O.Y.L.I.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of G. R. Coxon, of Blyth, who died very suddenly on March 19th, following a heart attack.

Although suffering from the effects of mustard gas in the first World War, he did not come to us until 1944, and then only light work was possible.

The Chairman's wreath of poppies was sent for the funeral.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Coxon in her further bereavement; only last April she lost her only son at the age of nineteen.

Private Dennis Driscoll, Royal Munster Fusiliers

With deep regret we record the death of D. Driscoll, of Cork, who came to us in 1929 having lost his sight as a result of being buried in a shell explosion. He trained as a boot-repairer and mat-maker but carried on only the latter craft, but for a number of years now he has not been a fit man.

He had a great personality and was a good comrade, always anxious to help fellow St. Dunstaners. He and Mrs. Driscoll, in difficult times when visits were impossible, often helped in this way.

He had been severely ill for two or three weeks, and he died at his home on March 14th. The funeral took place from Our Lady of Lourdes Church, BOLLINLOUGH, on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th. The attendance at the funeral and the many floral wreaths were proof of the high esteem in which he was held. Among the wreaths was one from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades, which bore red, white and blue ribbons, and another from the British Legion.

Three St. Dunstaners—Messrs. Andrew Keegan, Denis Morrison and Pat Long—were present, and also the widows of three St. Dunstaners—Mrs. Hayes, Mrs. Kenny and Mrs. Condon. Mrs. Toomey, wife of our St. Dunstaner was also present.

He is survived by his widow and four daughters, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Private William Duxbury, 1st Manchester Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of W. Duxbury, of Cheadle Hulme, Stockport.

Wounded at La Bassée in October, 1914, he came to St. Dunstan's in April of the following year, so that he was one of our first St. Dunstaners.

He had a small business for some time, but of recent years he had been able only to do light work, and, in fact, had been in bad health for some time. He was very ill at Ovingdean last year, but recovered sufficiently to go home and carry on quietly. He passed away on March 1st.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades was sent for the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 405—VOLUME XXXVI

MAY, 1953

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The Coronation

AS I write, members of our staff are mailing a Coronation gift to every St. Dunstaner all over the world. The Australian and New Zealand gifts have gone, the South African gifts follow, then the Canadian, and those for the Home Country will be despatched at the end of the month. The gift is only of nominal monetary value, namely five shillings, but it is a newly minted silver crown piece, the first of the new Reign. It is packed in a small transparent plastic box and is being sent in an envelope bearing St. Dunstan's badge with appropriate wording printed in two colours.

The "obverse" or head side of the crown bears the effigy of the Queen on horseback in the uniform of Colonel-in-Chief, Grenadier Guards. Her Majesty's figure faces to the left—the opposite direction to that of the profile on the ordinary coinage. The Queen is shown riding side-saddle. On either side of the figure are crowns above the inscription, E II R.

The inscription on the obverse is: ELIZABETH II. DEI. GRATIA. BRITT. OMN. REGINA. FIDEI. DEFENSOR, and, between two roses, the value—five shillings. The edge of the coin carries the inscription, FAITH AND TRUTH I WILL BEAR UNTO YOU. These words are from the oath of homage in the Coronation Service.

The reverse of the crown piece has in its centre a crown around which are the four quarterings of the Royal Arms, each contained in a shield. In the intervening spaces there are a double rose, a thistle, a sprig of shamrock, and a leek.

I hope the sentimental value of this little gift will be widely appreciated. I shall certainly keep mine as a treasured souvenir and pass it on to my heir.

A party of seventy, composed mainly of St. Dunstaners accompanied by a few members of the staff who will act as guides and commentators, will be present on the route of the Coronation Procession and four St. Dunstaners will be in Westminster Abbey—Mr. T. Milligan and Lieut. Colonel M. P. Ansell, C.B., D.S.O., representing the United Kingdom; Captain F. J. L. Woodcock, representing Canada, and Mr. Patrick Joseph Lynch, C.B.E., representing Australia. I shall also be in the Abbey in my capacity as a Member of Parliament, and I am sure we shall all feel that in taking part in the ceremony, we shall be expressing the loyalty and affection for Her Majesty the Queen of all St. Dunstaners everywhere.

Our many Reunions have been regarded as Coronation parties and a small souvenir has also been given to every St. Dunstan's wife in the form of a little Irish linen handkerchief with a lace border contrived of many small crowns.

The Crown is a symbol of Commonwealth and Empire embodied in the person of a young Queen and it will, I know, be the fervent prayer of all that her reign may be happy and glorious.

IAN FRASER.

St. Dunstaners Attending the Coronation

The following St. Dunstaners have been successful in the ballot which took place for positions on the Coronation route. Since the original ballot took place, some of those lucky in the draw have withdrawn, and so their places have been taken by reserves, also balloted for.

BARLOW, J.	Sheffield
BEARD, R. G.	Winnersh
BROWN, J. R.	Nuneaton
BURLEY, E. J.	Stithians
BUTTERY, F.	Normanton-on-Stour
CAMPBELL, R. P.	Tweedmouth
CARNELL, W. C.	Bampton
CARTER, T. A.	Haughton-le-Skerne
CHEAL, T. H.	Saltford, Somerset
CONLIN, P.	Brentford
COSTELLO, M.	Jaywick
CULL, F. W.	Derby
DEMBENSKI, A. A.	Cheltenham
DOWNES, S.	West House, Brighton
EDWARDS, W.	Brighton
ETHERINGTON, G. E.	Windlesham
EVANS, A. C.	Newport, Mon.
GAME, F. A.	Chislehurst
GARRITY, P.	Patcham
GRANSBY, H.	Perivale
GRIFFEE, F.	Bristol
HILLS, C.	Ramsgate
HUMPHREY, J.	Londonderry
ILLINGWORTH, J. T.	Moreton, Wirral
JAMES, F.	Hove
JEROME, S. K.	Harwell
JOLLY, G. A.	Blackpool
JORDAN, G. M.	Hove
KENT, T.	Chelmsford
LAMBOURNE, J. E.	Bletchley
LEES, MRS.	Birkenhead
LEWIS, D.	Gwaun-cae-Gurwen
MCCARTHY, W.	Stretford, Manchester
MILNER, T.	Liverpool
MOORLEY, T. H.	Derby
NORTH, T.	Walsall
OLLIER, L. E.	Bury
PALLANZA, C.	Edgware
PRINCE, G. A.	Newcastle-on-Tyne
QUIGLEY, B.	Potto
REED, W.	Barry
RUSSELL, S.	Gorton, Manchester
SCOTT, W. T.	Streatham
SHAVE, R. W.	Osmington
SHAW, J.	Ashton-in-Makerfield

SMART, G.	Oving
SPRING, P.	Chessington
STAFFORD, C. J.	King's Langley
TAYLOR, J. S.	Doncaster
THORNTON, W.	Birmingham
TRIGGS, J.	Ashford
WALKER, C. J.	Holloway
WARIN, F.	East Rainton
WILLIAMS, T. A.	Sheringham
WOOD, W. C.	Southsea
WRIGLEY, W.	Droylesden, Manchester

Wireless for the Blind Fund

On the 15th May, Sir Ian Fraser's Christmas Appeal for the Wireless for the Blind Fund had reached the sum of £34,600. Possibly another £1,000 or £1,500 may be expected to come in. This will enable the Fund, together with certain legacies which are now coming in, to meet in full the aim to provide every blind person in Britain who has not got one with a wireless set this year. Subject to manufacturing and distribution difficulties, it is believed that practically all blind people will have their sets before the Coronation.

Queen Mary

The following has been received from the Lord Chamberlain's Office, St. James's Palace :—

"I have received the Queen's commands to thank St. Dunstan's on Her Majesty's behalf for the beautiful flowers so kindly sent as a tribute of respect and affection to the memory of Her late Majesty Queen Mary. The Queen and the Royal Family are deeply touched by this tribute.

(Signed) SCARBOROUGH,
April, 1953. Lord Chamberlain.

Derby Sweepstake

The draw for the Derby Sweepstake (which has now closed), will be made at the London Club on the evening of Friday, May 29th.

All those drawing a horse will be notified by letter.

RONATION

une 2nd, 1953

Her M

QUEEN ELI

Patron of S





London Club Notes

Indoor Section.—By the time these notes are published, the six weeks' Sir Arthur Pearson Whist aggregate competition will be completed. The closing date for the Sir Arthur Pearson games competition (Cribbage, Darts and Dominoes) was April 11th, and all is ready for Round 1. June 13th is the time limit for the first round. W. BISHOP.

Bridge Notes.—On March 28th the Club played against the Civil Service and I regret to say we were defeated. On April 11th we won our match against the Inland Revenue, and on April 15th against the Blue Circle, believe it or not, we recorded another win. We were unsuccessful in a match against Mount Pleasant on April 28th.

On April 25th we had a very successful Bridge Drive in the Club. S. WEBSTER.

Outdoor Section.—On April 11th we invited His Worship the Mayor of Croydon to start our annual 15 mile Walk from South Croydon to Keston and back, and do us the honour of presenting the prizes. The day could not have been better and the start was made in glorious sunshine.

The field set off at a moderate pace, A. Brown, C. Williamson, W. Miller and T. Gaygan all bunched together at the first two miles. By the time we had gone 3 miles, the field was well spread out and at the half-way stage, A. Brown had got a commanding lead of nearly half a mile, with W. Miller second, C. Williamson third and the rest finding it hard going. W. Miller soon began to fall back and was displaced by C. Williamson at 8 miles.

The race was won by A. Brown—2 hrs. 28 mins. Second, C. Williamson, 2 hrs. 29 mins. Third, W. Miller, 2 hrs. 36 mins. Congratulations to D. Fleisig for winning the Handicap—an excellent performance on his first 15 mile. C. Williamson took 2nd Handicap and A. Brown 3rd Handicap. A. Brown again won the S.S. Points Cup. S. Tutton won the T.B. Points Cup, and C. Williamson won the Dr. Bridges Cup for the first T.B. man home. A. Brown and C. Williamson were the only two to break the time standard of 2 hrs. 35 mins. for the course.

Many thanks to Surrey Walking Club for the use of their Headquarters and to Mrs. Miller for providing the refreshments.

On Tuesday, April 14th, we had a 5 mile

race with the "Pearl" and Heath Insurance Offices. Considering this followed a hard 15, all are to be congratulated on putting up such a good performance.

Again D. Fleisig won the Handicap, a regular pot-hunter, this man. We won the team race by taking 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th places respectively by W. Miller, C. Williamson, A. Brown and S. Tutton.

We are still looking forward to seeing new faces. Start training now for next season, starting September 26th (approx.) with a two mile track race. Come along and enjoy the thrill of bursting blisters!

W. M. and C. W.

St. Dunstan's 15 Mile Walk

From the Stag and Hounds, Croydon.

Order of Finish	Time	H'cap All'nce	H'cap Time	H'cap Pos'n
	h m s		h m s	
1. A. Brown	2 28 19	Scr.	2 28 18	3
2. C. Williamson	2 29 35	2 10	2 27 25	2
3. W. Miller	2 36 51	Scr.	2 36 51	7
4. T. Gaygan	2 41 46	1 30	2 41 46	8
5. S. Tutton	2 44 45	11 50	2 32 55	6
6. C. Stafford	2 50 54	20 35	2 30 19	4
7. L. Dennis	2 54 42	22 20	2 32 22	5
8. D. Fleisig	2 55 44	31 20	2 24 24	1

Winner of the Dr. Chittenden Bridges Cup for the first totally blind man; C. Williamson.

Winners of the Aggregate Points Cup:—

T.B. Section; S. Tutton, 115 points.

S.S. Section; A. Brown, 117 points.

Winners of Scratch Medals:—

1st A. Brown.

2nd C. Williamson.

3rd W. Miller.

Winners of Standard Time Medals (2h. 35m.):—

A. Brown. C. Williamson.

Five Mile Walking Match

St. Dunstan's, Pearl Assurance Co.,

C. E. Heath & Co.

Order of Finish	Comp.	Club	Time	H'cp All.	H'cp Time.	H'cp Pos.
			m. s.		m. s.	
1. Thompson	Pearl		41-48	10	43-48	3
2. Miller	St. D's		43-58	10	43-48	3
3. Dyter	Pearl		44-09	—	—	
4. Williamson	St. D's		44-27	20	44-07	4
5. Brown	St. D's		45-03	Scr.	45-03	6
6. Tutton	St. D's		47-23	2-33	44-33	5
7. Nicholas	Pearl		47-41			
8. Bradley	St. D's		47-59	5-20	42-39	2
9. Cornes	Pearl		50-15			
10. Fleisig	St. D's		50-17	8-10	42-07	1
11. Ash	C.E.H.		52-18			
12. Carrol	C.E.H.		52-28			
13. Snell	C.E.H.		53-04			
14. Meek	C.E.H.		53-04			
15. Stratford	C.E.H.		54-49			

Match Result:

St. Dunstan's 2, 4, 5, 6, 17 points.

Pearl Assurance 1, 3, 7, 9, 20 points.

C. E. Heath & Co. 11, 12, 13, 14, 50 points.

Handicap Prize kindly presented by C. E. Heath & Co.

Presentation to Mr. Mackay

There was a happy ceremony at the London Club on Tuesday evening, April 21st, when Mr. Mackay was presented with the gifts subscribed for by St. Dunstaners all over the country upon his retirement as Welfare Superintendent.

Mr. A. D. Lloyds, Deputy Secretary, said the London Club was an appropriate place to make such a presentation, since it enabled as many men as possible to attend. Mr. Lloyds then asked Mr. Percy Ashton, President of the London Club, to make the presentation.

In a model speech, Percy wished Mr. and Mrs. Mackay great happiness and success in the future, and then handed to Mr. Mackay a Parker Pen and Pencil set. The gift was inscribed:—

"Alex Mackay, from his friends at St. Dunstan's, 1952."

At the same time, he gave him an envelope containing a cheque for the remainder of the monies subscribed.

Mr. Mackay received a warm welcome when he rose to reply. He said that the first thing he would do with the pen was to endorse the cheque. The second would be to write a cheque for the gifts which he intended to buy with the amount it represented. Although he had spoken to St. Dunstaners in every part of the United Kingdom, he had never spoken to so many at one time in London. To think, he said, of so many "rogues" under one roof! (Laughter). But Mr. Mackay was serious when he said that his relations with St. Dunstan's men had always been of the happiest. No one could have wished for better friends. He was deeply sorry to leave them, but the help and experience they had given him would, he felt, be of tremendous value to him in the work he was shortly to take up among the blind of East Africa.

After Mr. Bert Crabtree had spoken "as a St. Dunstaner who was also a member of the staff," the meeting broke up and St. Dunstaners went to give Mr. and Mrs. Mackay their personal good wishes before going on to the usual evening's whist.

Mr. Mackay Writes—

Dear St. Dunstaners

I am asking the Editor to spare me a few lines in the REVIEW to say thanks to all my St. Dunstaner friends who contributed

towards the gift presented to me by Mr. Percy Ashton on April 21st. I am delighted with the Parker Pen and Pencil, and the cheque is already earmarked to purchase travelling cases for my journey to East Africa.

I have been appointed to the administrative staff of the British Empire Society for the Blind, and will be leaving England to set up an office in Kampala, Uganda, at the end of the summer. I am looking forward eagerly to my new job, and as blindness in East Africa is a staggering problem, I know I will be kept fully occupied. I only hope that I shall be able to do something, even in a small way, to relieve the untold suffering caused by blindness in that part of the Empire.

My wife joins me in sending our kindest regards and very best wishes to all St. Dunstaners and their wives. You will often be in our thoughts.

Yours sincerely,

ALEX MACKAY.

Liverpool Club

Saturday, April 18th, was the day of our Annual General Meeting, and we had proof of the unfailing interest by a good attendance of members. There was a touch of sadness added to the proceedings by the marked absence of our late Hon. Treasurer, Alex Wright. Out of respect and affection the meeting observed a minute's silence. Afterwards the Chairman delivered his report of the Club year and expressed much satisfaction. The business of re-electing a Committee was a simple affair for the Club as a whole decided that for the main part the same Committee would serve for the coming year, namely:—

President, Captain Holloway; Chairman, J. C. Owen; Vice-Chairman, A. Lincoln; Secretary, T. Milner; Assistant Secretary, G. Ellis; Treasurer, T. Kinder; Rest of Committee: E. Cooper, J. Blakely, H. Matthews.

The meeting was closed with a vote of thanks which loses nothing in sincerity by its annual repetition. The ladies of the Club were thanked warmly for the unselfish help and encouragement during the past twelve months. "FRISBY."

St. Dunstan's Holiday Camp

Royal Barracks, Lee-on-Solent, Gosport, Hants. Friday, August 7th, to Saturday, August 15th. Camp fee, 25s. All fares over £1 paid.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Issue . . . controversial? Comparisons are . . . ? Sister . . . Why not? Down for a fortnight . . . not good at connecting voice with names. What then? Is it to be "Hi, Miss?" or "Hither, wench"? Oh no, Mr. Ellis! What the Dickens! Pray let us have something that jingles!

Yours truly,

West Wickham, Kent. S. F. PRIDEAUX.

DEAR EDITOR,

Why "Sister"? The answer is simple. We were taught that mode of address and the usage of same to-day is simply the result of our training. G. Ellis states that "for a person to be addressed as sister, she should have special qualifications and undergone special training, acquired special skills, and able to shoulder responsibilities." That does apply to nursing sisters, but has he not heard of other "sisters"? What about Sisters of Mercy? In my family there are seven girls younger than myself and each, on the day of her arrival, was called "sister," and they are still called "sister." They each arrived untrained, unskilled, and unable to take any responsibilities. Immediately a V.A.D. entered St. Dunstan's in the old days she was addressed as "Sister," and, with we fellows of the 1914 vintage, I think she will remain "Sister" to the end of the chapter. Has anyone any objections?

Yours sincerely,

Thetford.

B. A. HAMILTON.

P.S.—I am pleased to note that there are now odd ones of the 1939 men who are now beginning to sit up and take notice, and to ask the "whys and wherefores" of the activities of St. Dunstan's. Keep it up, Ellis, and get your friends to do likewise. It will one day be you alone who will have to carry the torch, and when the time comes for you to hand it on, I trust you will do so with as much pride as we old 'uns now have in handing it on.—B.A.H.

DEAR EDITOR,

George Ellis says that the title "Sister" must be embarrassing to the ladies, and is mostly used by the old St. Dunstaners of the First World War. It is equally embarrassing to the older men of the 1914 war to be consistently referred to and addressed by some of these youngsters as "Daddy" and "Pop" in tones that suggest they are "has-beens." I should like to register the

fact that the title of "Sister" conveys all the dignity which apparently Mr. Ellis thinks should be reserved for the actual hospital sisters. When I came to St. Dunstan's from hospital in both Manchester and London, I was told that I should address all the V.A.D.s, several of whom were titled ladies and some were "Mrs.," as "Sister." It was many months before I was acquainted by their voices with Sisters who were both married and titled ladies. We men of the 1914-1918 war were deeply appreciative, and still are, of the privilege of calling these ladies by the traditional and affectionate word "Sister." I know that many of the callow youths of to-day are following the G.I. technique of addressing all the younger generation of the opposite sex as "Sister," and in this modern age, where titles and ranks are largely being de-bunked, the words "Brother" and "Sister" have become something more than the family relationship or the hospital title. As long as St. Dunstan's is St. Dunstan's and not a "Rehabilitation Centre for Visually Defectives" that some seem to think is a preferable title, and as long as I am privileged to spend a holiday there no lady will feel embarrassed when I address her in the traditional form as "Sister."

Yours sincerely,

Castle Cary.

A. J. RADFORD.

DEAR EDITOR,

Regarding Mr. George Ellis's remarks as to calling any "female" member of St. Dunstan's staff "Sister." He thinks his observations will make little impression. Well, they have made a very deep impression on me, because I happen to be one of the men of the 1914-18 War, and I happen to have experienced some of the original "happy family" spirit and comradeship which any way existed until the Second World War ended. I never found any lady embarrassed at being addressed as "Sister," she might be embarrassed if addressed as "Miss" when she was "Mrs.," or *vice versa*. It is a St. Dunstaner's tradition to address any of the ladies of the staff as "Sister"; even the "Spat Brigade" do this!

Yours faithfully,

Haywards Heath.

JACK YOUNG.

DEAR EDITOR,

I am afraid my comrade, George Ellis, is treading on very dangerous ground

(from an arguing point of view) when he tries to pin down almost *any* word in the English language to a particular meaning. Fifty years ago one could perhaps say that this word meant this or that word meant that, but not so to-day (thanks to the G.I.s.).

I think that most of our boys look on the V.A.D.s as sisters in relationship in much the same way as many St. Dunstaners address each other as "Brother," as I myself do.

I believe the term "Sister" was given to the nursing profession by Florence Nightingale from a religious sense, as in the church every human being is referred to as "brother" or "sister." The term Sister, a nurse, or orderly, were later used in hospital to denote rank, much the same as in the army (to which she was attached) private, corporal and sergeant are used.

Yours faithfully,

Edgware.

CYRIL PALLANZA.

DEAR EDITOR,

George Ellis suspects that his observations regarding the use of the term "Sister" will make little impression on St. Dunstaners, and does not wish to make a major issue of this, but I suspect that the majority of St. Dunstaners would be at a loss for an alternative means of addressing the female staff who live and move with the men at Ovingdean.

It may be fairly easy for one who has spent a lot of time at Ovingdean to identify even the sound of the footsteps of any particular V.A.D., and much easier to identify her voice at a distance, but it might easily happen that there might be a "Sister" at the other end of the settee or quite near, and she, whoever she was, would answer the call.

With few exceptions, the 1914-1918 St. Dunstaners are just casual visitors to Ovingdean, and they cannot be expected to know whether the female member of the staff is Mrs. or Miss, and the position is still more difficult when surnames are concerned.

I'm sure that the majority of St. Dunstaners are conscious of the correct use of the title in its hospital sense, but the word has a wider application, and I feel that there would have to be a representative conference of St. Dunstaners if it was necessary to decide on an alternative "general title"

which would suit the men and at the same time not embarrass the female members of the staff.

If a dictionary definition of the word "Sister" will set George's mind at rest, the following may be quoted: "A woman of the same faith; a female of the same society, convent, abbey, etc., a female of the same kind or nature; to be near to."

Surely our female staff are of the same society in serving us, and also very near to us, and there seems to be ample justification for the continued use of the term.

Yours sincerely,

Ashton-in-Makerfield.

JIM SHAW.

DEAR EDITOR,

I think we should all agree with Sir Ian on the question of the reproduction of Hansard in braille. Such extensive reporting would only be read by, as he says, a handful of people. For the rest of us, such reporting as "To-day in Parliament" and the many discussions that take place on the radio, give us all the parliamentary news we require—perhaps more than we like.

Whether the reader on the Talking Book should read, or to some extent act the part, I think depends very much on the book and the reader. One can agree heartily with Sir Ian that the intrusion of the reader can sometimes be very objectionable, but the Texan accent in "The Yearling" positively makes the book; and I suggest that "London Belongs to Me," which I believe was read by Lionel Gamlin, is far better for the way in which it is read. The remarkable acting of the various people in this makes the book live, whereas when I had it read to me, the London character did not come out nearly as clearly as it does in the Talking Book.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN A. ORIEL.

Temple Guiting, Glos.

DEAR EDITOR,

Please, why are the "dear girls" never mentioned in the speeches at the Reunions? It is always "The Men of St. Dunstan's" (with a capital M), or the wives, or the staff, or the waitresses, but never are the words "The Girls of St. Dunstan's" ever uttered.

We know we are very much in the minority, but we make our presence heard and felt as much, if not more, than all the "dear boys" put together.

Up the Girls! Yours sincerely,

Morecambe.

MARGARET STANWAY.

On The Air

Peggy Pilon is to broadcast on the Home Service on May 27th, as present arrangements stand.

A. Scott, of Belfast, has made a recording in Belfast, but as we go to press it is not yet known when it will go on the air.

In a programme on the Home Service on April 28th, called "An English Journey," our handless St. Dunstan, E. ("Ted") Miller, who is a guide at Warwick Castle, told Celia Johnson—and listeners—of one of the wonderful paintings there.

South African News

From that admirable little magazine, "The St. Dunstan's (S.A.) Review," we learn of George Wagner's engagement and marriage to a fellow-passenger, Mrs. Lola Clifton, on his arrival from England.

Another engagement is that of James Crawford to Miss Ivy Patterson.

A recent arrival to South Africa is the Rev. Michael Norman. On New Year's Eve, Mr. Norman spoke in a radio programme called "New Year's Resolutions."

The Municipal Elections

Congratulations to Charles Cooper who has been re-elected to Worthing Town Council with a majority of one thousand over his opponents.

It was a disappointment to A. Adams, of Balby, Doncaster, that for economy reasons the Ward which he had hoped to contest as a Liberal candidate was cancelled.

Golden Wedding

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. A. Wilson, of Southwick, who celebrated their golden wedding on April 19th.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. George Lund, West Hartlepool, February 17th.

Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Ridley, East Finchley, May 4th.

Grandfathers

J. Kennedy, of Barnhill by Dundee, a grand-daughter on January 31st and a grand-son on March 7th; E. J. Blundell, of Eton; J. Lambourne, of Bletchley; J. Lovell, of Gloucester; G. Wishart, West Stanley; L. Price, Manor Park.

The Final at Last

I think I am the first deaf St. Dunstaner to go to the F.A. Cup Final at Wembley, and, I think, being the first deaf man to enter St. Dunstan's and a keen follower of the game, it was fitting too. What an amazing day to be sure. I was at Ovingdean for the deaf reunion, but met my wife at Brighton station, and the journey to Charing Cross was just normal, but there we ran right into it! You must realise my wife has been taking me to football for 30 years, and she too was realising a 30 years' ambition. The platform became more crammed when a train came, someone spotted my badge, "Coom on lad," he said, as he assisted me into the train and, like a lot of sardines in a very warm tin, we journeyed to Wembley. But they were a good-humoured lot. I found a lot of kindness when I wanted a gentlemen's cloakroom, and many a man put his mouth to my ear and I felt a hot breath as he shouted to me. But not knowing what team he supported I just shook hands and said "good luck," and was pushed back to where my wife awaited me.

My wife settled down to describe fully the whole scene, starting from the Royal Box and going round the stadium to the cameramen and film machines, and all the radio and television equipment. She then described Mr. Attlee arriving, with Mrs. Attlee, and a few minutes later Lord Woolton and other celebrities, and then the Queen and the Duke and the Princess.

The game itself was broadcast and in the newspapers. Nevertheless, the dramatic way in which it started, with Lofthouse, the Bolton centre, scoring in two minutes, and the thrilling way it ended, with that splendid run of Stanley Matthews, and the final goal a minute from the end, stamps the game as the best we ever went to, and we have seen some, I can tell you.

GEORGE FALLOWFIELD.

Chess

Will all St. Dunstaners interested in a Chess Week-end at Ovingdean please drop a line to Mr. C. D. Wills, General Welfare Superintendent, at Headquarters. If there is sufficient support for such a function it is proposed to hold a Chess Week-end from Friday, November 27th, to Monday, 30th.

From All Quarters

From the Annual Report of the Institution of Chemical Engineers: "The Osborne Reynolds Medal for 1952 was awarded to Mr. J. A. Oriel, C.B.E., M.C., in recognition of his many services to the Institution, and especially as Chairman of the Nomination Committee."

★ ★ ★

On April 25th, J. R. Brown, of Nuneaton, attended the Reunion in Bury of his old regiment, the Lancashire Fusiliers. The next day he was on church parade, and at the march past of the Memorial marking the first landing at the Dardanelles. Our St. Dunstaner, who first began soldiering in 1906, was in that landing, so that it was a meeting of many old friends.

★ ★ ★

Maureen Lees has been elected a member of the newly-formed Cheshire Weavers' Guild.

★ ★ ★

Coronation celebrations are giving J. S. Hodgson, of Fotheringay, near Peterborough, a very busy time, as he is responsible for the arrangements, the flood-lighting, and a supper for the entire village. Mr. Hodgson has just been sworn in as People's Church Warden for the tenth consecutive year.

★ ★ ★

L. Faulkner, of Northwich, recently completed twenty years with his firm and, with other employees, was entertained by them and given a braille wristlet watch.

★ ★ ★

The name of the National Institute for the Blind, which was granted a Royal Charter in 1949, has now been changed to the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

★ ★ ★

Speaking at the opening of a handicrafts and fancy fare exhibition at Rottingdean in aid of the R.N.I.B., Mr. W. T. Curtis-Willson said that in Brighton they had a very proud tradition of service to the blind. He pleaded for the continuance of voluntary aid. The exhibition was opened by Mr. George Robey. Air Commodore G. B. Dacre was chairman.

★ ★ ★

One of the keenest supporters at Wembley for the England and Scottish international match was Bill Wrigley, one of our handless lads. One of Bill's coaches took thirty-two Droylsden Soccer fans to London.

Another handless St. Dunstaner, Dicky Brett, was featured in the *Daily Dispatch* of Manchester, of April 25th, when he, with Joe Walsh, had travelled from Brighton to play darts with local St. Dunstaners at the United Veterans' Club, Bolton.

Leslie Webber is now Chairman of Tewkesbury Round Table. There are two relatives of St. Dunstaners in this Club—John Law, the elder son of A. V. Law, of Pensax, Stockton, and Gerald Coopey, son-in-law of F. Stew, of Shuthonger.

★ ★ ★

D. Owen, of Rhos-on-Sea, won third prize for hyacinths in the Colwyn Bay Horticulture Society Show.

★ ★ ★

Doug Cashmore gave away the prizes at a Selly Oak whist drive last month and made a good speech.

The Reunions

The Manchester Reunion on April 16th was a "grand do." How these Lancashire lads and lasses can enjoy themselves! Over seventy St. Dunstaners were present to meet Lady Fraser and Mr. D. G. Hopewell, who is a member of our Executive Council. Miss Vaughan-Davies and Mrs. Dunphy were also among those who attended.

The Colchester party at the Red Lion Hotel on April 22nd was a smaller but very happy "family" affair. Like the Norwich meeting the following day, it was organised by Miss Hester Pease, assisted by Miss Hensley. Mr. Hopewell was a popular guest at Norwich, too, as he was at Doncaster two days later. Sir Ian and Lady Fraser had hoped to attend, but much to their regret they were unable to do so. Sir Ian sent the following message, which was read at the Reunion. "After a very bad week in the House of Commons, I caught a cold and cannot come. Lady Fraser and I are very disappointed, but send you all our best wishes."

As we went to press the two Liverpool meetings took place on Friday and Saturday, the 8th and 9th of May. Lady Fraser attended the Friday meeting, with Mr. T. F. Lister, C.B.E., the first Chairman of the British Legion and a new member of St. Dunstan's Council. Mr. D. G. Hopewell was present on the Saturday and the other guests of honour were Major D. L. Charters, F.R.C.S., and Mrs. Charters

I Remember . . .

During the last war we had a number of police drafted here who were unfamiliar with the place. I was returning home one night, or rather early one morning, after performing a ceremony in Winchester. I was in evening kit with my regalia case in my hand. On the way I had to pass a very well-known Cable Works, the entrance of which was guarded by huge iron gates, through which lorries constantly passed. On reaching these I always feel along them to make sure that they are closed in case a lorry shoots out. I was cautiously feeling my way across when a hand was clapped on my shoulder and a voice said "We are Police Officers. What are you doing here and what have you got in that case?" I proceeded to explain but although I produced my identity card, they insisted that I should go to the station with them. It was about one-thirty, and I did not feel very happy. I gave them my address and said that the Superintendent of Police knew me. After a whispered conversation they decided to come home with me. They did so and were not satisfied until I put my key in the door.

I got my own back about a week later. I was returning home and had passed the Police Station some quarter of a mile since when a burly figure bumped into me. There was a heavy raid on at the time and, after apologising to me, he asked me where the Police Station was. I thought that perhaps it was some poor bloke whose house had been bombed and, taking him by the arm, led him back and pushed him into the doors of the Station, whereupon he thanked me, saying that he had only been drafted there that day and has lost his way. I told him that a St. Dunstaner had shown him the way and left him speechless with exertion and surprise. BILL LOWINGS.

Coronation Carnival Dance

On Coronation Night (Tuesday, 3rd June) there will be a Carnival Dance held in the Lounge at Ovingdean from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. After the dance transport will be arranged to Brighton Aquarium, etc.

Local St. Dunstaners will be welcome to the dance but they must apply to Ovingdean not later than Friday, 29th May, for a ticket for the Dance. *Admission will be by ticket only.*

Ovingdean Notes

On 22nd April, Mr. Hugh Burnett of the Far Eastern Service of the B.B.C. visited Ovingdean to make preliminary arrangements to do a feature programme about St. Dunstan's in an English programme of the Far Eastern Service. At the beginning of this month recordings were made of interviews with Mr. William Deeds, M.P., chatting to several St. Dunstaners about themselves. Those interviewed were four from World War 1 (J. Walsh, now teaching Braille at Ovingdean, K. Gattrell—Telephonist at Ovingdean, J. Mahony—Physiotherapist at Ovingdean and W. Dunn of Canvey Island) and two from World War II now training at Ovingdean (P. Harris and Dorothy Phillippo). We are hoping that Mr. Burnett may be able to let us all hear the final recorded programme after it has been broadcast in "London calling Asia."

From one form of entertainment to another—this time from the world of Variety. Tessie O'Shea, appearing at the Brighton Hippodrome this week, made a welcome personal visit to Ovingdean and brought along with her one or two other artists also appearing in the stage show. Numerous photographs were taken, including one, which appeared later in the "Brighton Argus" of Joe Walton balancing Tessie on his knee—it is just possible to see Joe's wide grin!!

Sports Day—Ovingdean

As previously announced Sports Day will be held at Ovingdean on Saturday, 11th July, commencing at 2.30 p.m. We hope to have many entries from the Clubs and individual St. Dunstaners.

The main items will be as in previous years, but if you would like to have a complete list please drop a note to Miss Guilbert at Ovingdean. Then decide upon the races you are going to enter and see that your name reaches Mr. Jarrold *not later than 30th June*.

Sussex St. Dunstaners will be receiving invitations individually later, but we are hoping that any St. Dunstaner who knows he will be down this way at the time, but not staying in the Home, will apply as early as possible for a Tea Ticket by writing to Miss Guilbert.

It may sound as if we are asking for all arrangements to be made very early but it does so help with catering, etc., to be able to accurately estimate numbers attending.

Talking Book Library

April Appreciation

There is no room for the "cackle" this month because six "hosses" claim the right of way.

"Queen Elizabeth," by J. Neale, reader Arthur Bush, is no romantic fairy tale but a fair account of the terrifying odds faced by our first superb Elizabeth and of her triumphs achieved invariably at great personal grief. Even though historical biography leaves you cold, this must provide interest simply to compare Elizabethan Era I with our Elizabethan Era.

"Strafford," by C. Wedgwood, reader Gordon Little, among other things, was the only man who might have averted the Civil War. This version of the life of Thomas Wentworth, Lord Strafford, makes him the main prop of Charles I, who seems not to grasp the fact, until too late, that he needed a prop of any kind other than Divine Right. Strafford must have been of fine calibre for, as Viceroy of Ireland, he managed to straighten out its corrupt and tangled administration as never before. He was tried and executed by the Parliamentarians as the most dangerous man on the other side.

"Just as it Happened," by Newman Flower, reader Norman Shelley, is a delightfully informal volume of interview and anecdote during the long and interesting career of a publisher. A book to dip into again and again and thoroughly enjoy. Many familiar names such as Lily Langtry, Mr. Asquith, and many more of such varied interests appear in interviews. A pleasant and restful book written by one who knows good writing, read by one who knows all about reading, and recorded by our own painstaking studio staff.

"God So Loved the World," by Elizabeth Goudge, reader Alvar Liddell, appeals to me most strongly as an excellent, delicate book on the Life of Christ. I know many people hate the idea of such a subject in novel form, but I will give my right hand if any take offence at this fine work.

"Desperate Voyage," by John Caldwell, reader Arthur Bush, is an epic of extreme foolishness, matched by a somewhat awe-inspiring courage. Object—Panama to Sydney in a 29-footer single-handed with no sailing experience. Wrecked and repaired—through the heart of a hurricane, starvation and thirst—to final wreck and

success. It makes the Kon Tiki Expedition a simple pleasure cruise and is a humdinger when the preliminary rashness fades out. Written by an amateur maybe, but that only makes it the more convincing.

"Arms and the Men," by Ian Hay, reader David Lloyd James, traces the British Army, men and weapons, from Charles II to the present day. It is informative and full of interest, and there are more incidents than statistics incorporated.

This month includes, I believe, the best set of books it has been my pleasure to put before you, but I cannot choose the "pick of the month" with any conviction. Over to you—.

"NELSON."

From the Chairman's Post-Bag

The following is an extract from a letter recently received by Sir Ian Fraser:

"A year, or perhaps a little more, after I was blinded on munitions, my father and I went for the last time to the Manchester eye surgeon. We were told my case was hopeless. In the time before our train left, we went to a training institution for the blind. We walked up to the door. Before we knocked I felt a sudden strange feeling that we were doing the wrong thing. I said "Don't knock." We came away without knocking. Shortly after that a jeweller, named Mr. Sam Leighton, a well known personage who was keenly interested in the work of St. Dunstan's, recommended me to get into touch with Sir Arthur Pearson. I did so and am still blessing the day. I think God had a hand in guiding me to Sir Arthur Pearson and St. Dunstan's."

Lancaster.

T. TILL.

Placements

B. C. Hughes, on gauging work with Messrs. Willmot Breedon, Limited, Tyseley, Birmingham; H. Croyman, as a shop-keeper (tobacco and confectionery) at Sydenham.

Ladies Only?

Mrs. Maureen Lees suggests that since our girls have such varied interests and have acquired such skill in them, hints could be passed on to each other by means of the REVIEW. This is a good idea and the Editor will welcome such tips. Perhaps they won't only be of interest to our girl St. Dunstaners.

Young St. Dunstaners

Margaret Frampton (Higham's Park), has passed her final examinations and is now a State Registered Nurse.

Alan Leigh (Warrington) was a prize-winner in a "Sunday Chronicle" Painting Competition.

Nora Bithell (Chester) has passed with merit the First Steps Examination (Trinity College) for music.

Marriages

Andrew Murphy, Glasgow, on April 17th, to Miss Ellen Dorwood Aitken.

Maureen Robinson (Scarborough) to F. Dixon.

Jack Roylance (Atherton) on March 14th to Miss Eileen Fleming.

Albert Kennedy (Barnhill by Dundee), on March 6th, to Miss Elizabeth Barnett.

Dorothy Maskell (Hunmanby) on March 21st, to William Gray.

Thomas Brougham, Speke, Liverpool, on February 28th, to Miss Sheila Pratt.

For Sale

A blind friend of our St. Dunstaner, W. T. Scott, of Streatham, has for sale a three-wheeled side by side cycle, with independent pedalling, synchronised three-speed gear and Mini-Motor attached. It is in good running order with one new back tyre and the other two in good condition. The motor has done under 400 miles and has been decarbonised.

The machine is very suitable for a blind person and his or her guide. The owner's wife has on one occasion taken out a deaf-blind friend and signalled to him by tapping his arm. The price asked is £30 for machine and motor complete. These machines, incidentally, are no longer made.

The Editor, who has seen a photograph of the machine, will be glad to put St. Dunstaners interested in touch with "Scotty's" friend.

Wanted—

A Moon Book on Gardening

In the days of Church Stretton a book on Gardening was published in Moon for St. Dunstaners. Has any St. Dunstaner still got a copy, and, if so, would he be willing to lend it to another St. Dunstaner? Mr. S. Jones, Men's Supplies, would be very glad indeed to hear.

Births

LEGGE.—On May 8th, to the wife of J. Legge, of Bristol, a son—Alistair Simon.

Marriages

JESSUP—MILLIGAN.—On May 9th, at Brighton, G. Jessup to Mrs. Cyrilla Margaret Milligan.

COOPER.—On April 25th, K. Cooper, of Eastbourne.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

BEE.—To D. Bee, of Bolton, whose mother, with whom he lived, has died.

CLARKE.—To T. E. Clarke, of Worthing, whose wife died on April 24th.

DUGDALE.—To Norman Dugdale, of Moston, Manchester, whose father has recently died.

HUMPHREYS.—To E. J. Humphreys, of Surbiton, whose wife died on April 21st.

MARR.—To E. Marr, of Blackburn, who lost his mother on March 5th.

PARKER.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Parker, of Cowley, Oxford, in the loss of their baby grandson (incorrectly reported in the March REVIEW as their son.)

PRINTIE.—To R. Printie, of Edinburgh, in his double bereavement. His sister died in February at the age of 64, and his brother died in the same month at the age of 40.

REASON.—To F. R. G. Reason, of Bothenhampton, near Bridport, who lost his father on April 6th.

STAMPER.—To T. D. Stamper, of Addlestone, and his wife, whose 22-year-old grandson was drowned when a cargo boat to Scotland capsized and all on board lost their lives. The lad lived with Mr. and Mrs. Stamper for many year.

Mrs. T. E. Clarke

Mrs. T. E. Clarke, of Worthing, whose death is reported above, will be better known to St. Dunstaners as Miss Drury.

Miss Drury was a Red Cross worker during the First World War and will be remembered as one of St. Dunstan's loyal helpers of that time, giving her services freely as reader and braille teacher.

“ In Memory ”

Private John Abruzzese Bruce, *1st King's Own Scottish Borderers*

With deep regret we record the death of J. A. Bruce, of Huntingdon, which occurred in hospital on April 15th. He would have been 53 on the 10th of this month.

He came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1919, and trained in mat-making. For many years he worked at this but transferred to string bags a little time before he gave up work two years ago. He had had many spells of ill-health but it was hoped that he was improving. He was admitted to hospital a few days before his death and died following an operation.

Cremation took place on April 18th and the service was attended by a St. Dunstaner, Mr. W. Shea, and Mrs. Shea. Mrs. Wakelin was also present.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow.

Private Albion John Foster, *Labour Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of A. J. Foster, of Hastings. He was seventy-five.

When he came to St. Dunstan's in February, 1925, he trained in mat-making, but his health prevented him working at this for long. He then transferred to netting. He had been in poor health for some considerable time and he died in hospital, to which he had been admitted a short time before.

He leaves a widow to whom our very sincere sympathy is extended.

Corporal Andrew Isaac, *1/3 Highland Brigade, Royal Field Artillery*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. Isaac, of Glasgow.

He served with his regiment from August, 1914, until October of the following year, but it was not until 1926 that he entered St. Dunstan's. He trained in mat-making and boot-repairing but for a very long time now, as a result of his age and health, his life has been a very quiet one.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his family, and in particular to Winnie, his daughter, who has only recently married. It was after her wedding that her father was taken ill and died at his home on April 18th.

Stoker Petty Officer Theodore Alexander Leopold Probitts, *Royal Navy*

With deep regret we record the death of T. A. L. Probitts, of Middle Barton, which occurred on April 20th as the result of a tragic accident.

When he came to St. Dunstan's in February, 1950, his health forbade any form of training. Since 1940 he had been an invalid and unable to walk. He had been in the habit of lighting his cigarette from a small paraffin lamp by his wheel chair. While his wife was away for a short while, the lamp apparently fell, and although the fire was out when Mrs. Probitts returned, her husband had suffered severe injuries and shock, and died in hospital shortly afterwards.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Probitts and her grown-up family in their sad loss.

Private Alexander Wright, *Royal Flying Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. Wright, of Wavertree, Liverpool.

He served throughout the 1914-1918 war but it was not until 1948 that he came to St. Dunstan's. He was already settled in business and he carried on with this until a few months before his death. He had a serious operation in hospital but was home for a day or two before he died on April 4th.

At the funeral the coffin was covered with the Union Jack, and among the large gathering of mourners at the Service were his St. Dunstan's comrades, Messrs. Ingham, Holland, Jackson, Blakeley and Jackman. At the cremation at Anfield, and representing St. Dunstan's Liverpool Club, were Captain Halloway (Chairman) and Messrs. Milner, Lincoln, Mathews, Dickenson, Halsall and Shayler.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Wright and her family, and to members of the Liverpool Club who mourn a good comrade.

Fireman Frederick Champniss, *Royal Navy*

With deep regret we record the death of Frederick Champniss, of Hove, at the age of sixty-four.

He lost his sight while serving on the troopship, S.S. *Minnetonka*, and he came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1915. He was a basket-maker for some time and later had a smallholding, from which he retired some two years ago.

Wreaths from his Brighton friends, and a poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser were sent for the funeral at the Downs Crematorium on April 10th.

He was twice married and our sincere sympathy goes to his widow and small daughter, and to his grown-up family.

Mr. Patrick Condon

We very much regret that in the list of those attending the funeral of our late St. Dunstaner, Dennis Driscoll, of Cork,

Mrs. P. Condon's name was given last month as the widow of a St. Dunstaner, instead of the wife. Pat, his friends will be very glad to know, is very much alive.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

25 JUNE 53
PAID 1.10
GREAT BRITAIN

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 406—VOLUME XXXVI

JUNE, 1953

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
(FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN)

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Thank You, B.B.C.

A number of St. Dunstaners have written to me telling me how much they enjoyed the broadcasting of the Coronation ceremony and Procession. "We felt we were there." A deaf St. Dunstaner tells me how relays of Sisters at Ovingdean translated the broadcast description to him by the manual alphabet throughout the day. The St. Dunstaners in the coach and those on the stand seem to have enjoyed themselves from the reports and letters I have received. Many have told me how much they appreciate the silver crown which we sent out as a memento. So ends our celebration of the Coronation, and although we were all thrilled with these stirring events, it will be our hope that there will not be another Coronation for a very long time to come. "Long live the Queen" is our prayer.

Braille

It has been my experience that those who lose their sight in adult life—even as young men—do not as a rule learn braille as easily, or become so fluent, as those who go blind in childhood. Nevertheless we have tried hard at St. Dunstan's to raise our standard of teaching and encourage continuous effort, and I am sure that our competition for the Arthur Pearson Memorial prizes have had their effect. In the National Library for the Blind Reading Competition, open to all the blind world, six St. Dunstaners have won prizes in their particular sections this year.

I cannot emphasise too strongly to all St. Dunstaners, and especially the younger ones, how important it is to stick to their braille, and I recommend a daily dose, however short. Soon it will cease to be a drudgery and become one of the most important pastimes and pleasures. Apart from the books which can be had from the National Library for the Blind, there are many magazines, including our own "Nuggets" which consists of short items of interest and comment and is easy for the beginner to read. A note to the Editor will bring information about the wealth of literature and journalism that is available.

Dark Glasses

Some St. Dunstaners wear dark glasses because their eyes or eyelids have been hurt, or because the sun or the wind cause discomfort; this is understandable and very wise. I have noticed that many others wear them for some other reason and I wonder what it is.

Is it perhaps sensitiveness about blindness or, alternatively, to demonstrate that the wearer is blind? It is no longer as fashionable as it was in the outside world to wear dark

glasses and I wonder if it is desirable in a case where there is no medical need. I would be interested to hear the views of others about this subject.

Miss Hamar Greenwood

Many St. Dunstaners will feel they have lost a personal friend by the death on May 18th of Miss Hamar Greenwood. The Editor is printing on another page a note written in the "Times" by her brother-in-law, the Right Hon. L. S. Amery, as well as one which I contributed to the same paper.

St. Dunstan's Is Honoured Too

It has warmed my heart to receive so many letters and messages from all over the world following my appointment as a member of the Companions of Honour. We have tried to answer every one of these, but if one has gone astray, we hope the sender will take the will for the deed. I rejoice to think that the award honours St. Dunstan's as well as its Chairman.

IAN FRASER

Brighton Walk Record Beaten

Old memories were revived on May 16th when three St. Dunstaners—Messrs. Charles Williamson, veteran Archie Brown, and Charles Stafford—lined up with members of many well-known walking clubs to take part in the famous annual Stock Exchange Walk to Brighton. And they did not only line up to begin. They all finished in the first twenty, and Charles Williamson smashed by more than ten minutes the St. Dunstan's record set up by Jock Ingram in 1925. Congratulations to all three.

First war St. Dunstaners will recall the tremendous excitement and enthusiasm of 1922, 1923, 1924 and 1925, when our walkers held their own London to Brighton Walk. F. M. Cassidy won the Walk that first year, W. Birch in 1923 and Jock Ingram the following two years, beating his own record in 1925 by coming home in 9 hrs. 57 mins. 20 secs. The 1925 race—the last of the Brighton Walks as it happened—was a wonderful one in every way. Every one of the ten starters finished—claimed as a record then for the Brighton Road.

Coronation Awards

A limited number of Coronation Medals were awarded for long service to St. Dunstan's. Those who received them were Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., President of St. Dunstan's, Mr. W. G. Askew, Secretary, Miss E. Goole, the Chairman's principal secretary, Mr. Jock Boyd, Appeals Department, and Mr. S. Durrant (Technical Visitor).

★ ★ ★

We are glad to hear that the following St. Dunstaners have also received Coronation Medals; Mr. C. H. Ellis, of Ilford,

telephonist, Ministry of Labour; Mr. G. H. Heeley, shorthand typist, Ministry of Pensions, Leeds; Mr. W. Lethbridge, of Oldham; Mr. P. Martin, of Thornton Heath, telephonist at the Imperial Defence College; Mr. W. Muir, of Whitley Bay, telephone operator at the Ministry of Labour; Sergeant Alan Nichols, of Portslade, Sussex.

★ ★ ★

Mr. J. Macfarlane ("Mac") was awarded the B.E.M. for his thirty years' service as a telephone operator with the Export Credits Guarantee Department. The Comptroller General of Mac's Department said: "His interest in his work and his knowledge cannot be assessed in words. In fact, he is an institution."

★ ★ ★

Mr. S. C. Tarry receives an M.B.E. He was one of the early St. Dunstan's masseurs and was for some years Chairman of the physiotherapists' Advisory Committee. He was a member in its early days of the Federation of Disabled Men, which later became the British Legion. He has been a member of the local War Pensions Committee (South West Area) since 1921, for the last three years as its chairman. He was a member of the Battersea Borough Council, and is active in the social and philanthropic life of the Borough.

★ ★ ★

Sir Ian Fraser was made a member of the Order of the Companion of Honour. This honour carries no title and is limited to sixty-five members at any one time. It was instituted in 1917 and among the first holders were Mr. Winston Churchill and General Smuts. The present list includes Mr. Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. Attlee, and Lord Woolton.

Coronation Memories

"I Was There"

The P. and O. liner "Strathaird" docked at Tilbury on May 31st, two days before the Coronation. I was fortunate to be one of the passengers on this ship. One might say, "Why fortunate?"

The ship sailed from Sydney, calling at the main ports of Australia, then Colombo, Bombay, Aden, Port Said and Marseilles. During the two months in Australia I came into contact and conversed with a number of Australians. Many of those I spoke to had different viewpoints concerning the Mother Country, but I can honestly say that I have not met one individual, or any body of people, who did not respect the Throne. It came quite natural for all to express their love and admiration for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. My wife and I were in the city of Perth on a day in April when we noticed that all the streets were gaily beflagged. I asked someone what all this festivity was for and the lady said, "You, English people, asking an Australian that! Don't you know it is the birthday of your Queen?" It came to me very strongly that whatever their differences, the bond of Empire was bound firmly by their allegiance to the Crown.

People of many races, castes and religions boarded the ship at different ports. Many of them came to have a chat with me. All those I spoke with were on their way to London. They were travelling to see the Coronation. All this imbued the whole ship with the atmosphere of the Coronation.

One Indian lady told me that it would give her much pleasure when she returned again to her own country to say, "I was there." I, too, was pleased to know that so many of all races admired our Queen, which is the reason why I thought myself fortunate; I also felt a little sorry for myself because I did not think at that time that I should be there. When my wife and I arrived home on the Sunday afternoon, I found that I had been one of the lucky St. Dunstaners inasmuch that I had drawn a seat to view the procession. So you see, I was there.

When I arrived at Ovingdean on the Monday, it gave me great pleasure to meet

some old friends who were also to be in our party. After high tea, we proceeded in two coaches to Headquarters at Marylebone Road, arriving about 7.45. I think it remarkable that we did this in such a short space of time considering all the traffic at such a time. The two drivers on St. Dunstan's staff should be congratulated.

A late dinner was waiting for us, which we all thoroughly enjoyed. When we were partaking of this, we were all pleased to hear the voice of our Chairman, Sir Ian Fraser, who spoke to us on the eve of the day that everyone had been looking forward to for so long. We all expressed our pleasure at the knowledge that Her Majesty had honoured him that day by making him a Companion of Honour.

I was in the coach party which left about nine o'clock the next morning. We had a splendid wireless set in our coach, so that we heard all the ceremonies, etc., which took place before the procession came. This shortened the period of waiting. In the afternoon we again followed the proceedings up to the moment when the head of the procession came into sight. Then Commandant Fawcett began to describe what was passing us. This was the moment we were waiting for. It had arrived and we were all standing looking out at the road. The Colonial contingents, the Armed Police, the Army, Navy, the Air Force, then the Commonwealth contingents. All the colour of the different uniforms, the burst of light when in the sudden sunshine hundreds of fixed bayonets gleamed and sparkled. Eventually the greatest moment of all when Her Majesty's procession came into view. The cheering of the immense crowds reminded me of the song, "Can't you hear them cheering as the Queen goes by." Then the State coach came by, drawn by eight grey horses, and we saw Her Majesty and H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh.

When all had gone by and the soldiers had marched away, we started on our return to Brighton, the memory of all the excitement still strongly with us. The glory of this day will ever live in my memory and I am most grateful that I was able to be there.

Hove.

MALCOLM JORDAN.

A View from the Stands

I was one of the fortunate ones to draw a seat for the Coronation, so on the Monday evening I left home for Headquarters in the very best of spirits. Our sleeping accommodation was on the floor of the Darts Room and it brought back memories of the Service and camping days—though our comfort had been given more consideration and was much more fun. About 4.30 a.m. we were all awake; the excitement by this time was really growing rapidly, but it did not stop us from enjoying a very hearty breakfast which had been prepared for us by lady members of the office staff. At 6.45 we were given a cushion and haversack containing food and drink for the day and departed.

Our seats, which were excellent, were in the East Carriage Drive and soon after 7 a.m. we settled ourselves for a wait of about eight hours. Surprisingly enough, the time went very quickly. The enthusiasm and atmosphere was something never to be forgotten. The crowds were all on top of the world although the weather was most unkind, and for the last three hours of waiting it rained continuously, but with the groundsheets lent by St. Dunstan's, and other improvised coverings, we managed to keep reasonably dry. One of the party, trying to locate a rail he had been told about, felt something strange and a lady's voice said, "That belongs to me." (Apparently he was touching her knee). An announcer on a loudspeaker was kept very busy with lost children, etc., and his announcements were very humorous and entertaining.

We were fortunate in hearing on the loudspeaker the most memorable service from Westminster Abbey. As the time for the procession grew nearer, the excitement was intense, and the roar of the crowds as the procession first came into sight was something never to be forgotten. From now on our escorts had a very busy time giving a running commentary and trying to keep up with the splendour and pageantry, but they did it extremely well and the picture I got was most vivid. After the long procession came the moment we had waited for—the golden coach and most of all, our radiant Queen. Never before have I heard such cheers.

I am sure that all the other fellows who had shared this happy day with me would like me to express their thanks to Sir Ian

and the staff and helpers who had made this great day an outstanding success.

CHARLES STAFFORD.

A House of Commons Party

During their stay in London for the Coronation, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser gave a luncheon to Mr. P. J. Lynch, C.B.E. and Captain F. J. L. Woodcock, who were representing the Australian Commonwealth Council of Disabled Soldiers' Association, and the National Veterans' Organisation of Canada. The Marquess and Marchioness of Normanby were there; the Marquess, who is a Member of the Council of St. Dunstan's and had been a fellow prisoner of war in Germany with Captain Woodcock early in the recent war, proposed the Toast of "Our Guests" and Mr. Lynch and Captain Woodcock responded. Mrs. Woodcock and Mrs. Lynch accompanied their husbands, and among others present were a number of other Canadian and Australian St. Dunstaners resident in this country, Mr. Askew, and a number of Members of Parliament.

The Coronation Programme

A number of Coronation Programmes in Braille are available as souvenirs of a very wonderful occasion. Will any St. Dunstaner who would like to have a copy, send his name to Mr. S. Jones, Men's Supplies.

Church Stretton Goes Gay

From the "News Chronicle," May 25th:

"Typical of many village celebrations will be those of Church and All Stretton under the Long Mynd, in Shropshire. Besides a street carnival and country dancing, bonfires will be lit on three surrounding peaks—Caradoc, Ragleth and the Long Mynd itself, all well over 1,000 feet high.

"On Long Stretton's cricket ground, stationmaster Will Owen has got together a team of gentlemen who will play left-handed cricket, using pick handles for bats against Long Stretton ladies.

"To help the Women's Institute in an exhibition of local history, 93-year-old Miss Jasper Jones and her 91-year-old sister Miss Ambler Jones have 'blown the dust of ages' (Miss Jasper's phrase) off dresses worn by their grandmother in 1816.

"Thanks to the Misses Jones, Church Stretton will also be able to see a wooden stomacher presented to their doctor-uncle by a patient whose fiancé carved on it initials and hearts in 1796, when George I was King."

London Club Notes

Indoor Section.—On Monday, May 11th, we suffered our first defeat at darts when we paid a visit to our friends at the Tottenham Constitutional Club. This loss was attributed to being short of practice, but trainer Bob Willis has other views. One player in particular he is recommending for the transfer list. Any offers?

A happy party left the Club by coach at 10 a.m. on June 6th to see Sir Gordon Richards ride his first Derby winner, and although winners were hard to find, a most enjoyable day was spent by all. A halt was made on the return journey at Streatham, where light refreshments were served.

W. BISHOP.

Outdoor Section.—"Big Ben," 6 a.m., May 16th.—This will long be remembered as a milestone in the annals of the Walking Section, for it marked the start of what was considered by many to be a highly improbable thing. Three of our members, Charles Williamson, Archie Brown, and Charles Stafford, along with forty other competitors, were starting in the famous annual Stock Exchange London to Brighton walking race.

Despite heavy rain at the start and strong headwinds, to say nothing of the unfavourable predictions of many would-be prophets, particularly first war St. Dunstaners, each walked extremely well and finished in styles that would do justice to the best of walkers. Charles Williamson broke the St. Dunstan's record set up in 1925 by Jock Ingram by finishing 7th in 9 hrs. 47 mins.; Archie Brown, even more remarkable for he is 57 years old, finished tenth in 9 hrs. 59 mins. 45 secs., and Charles Stafford was 20th in 10 hrs. 55 mins. 20 secs. Three in the first twenty out of forty-three is truly a first-class performance. Many congratulations to all three.

The Farmer Cup.—The annual 7 miles race for the Farmer Cup was held on May 30th, at Brighton. Five men represented London and six men the Rest of England. The race, which was started by John and Jennifer Nicks, world pairs skating champions, was keenly contested, and a large crowd of spectators were delighted by some fine walking.

Archie Brown, for the Rest of England, took the initiative and held a comfortable lead over W. Miller, of London, until half a mile from home, when the latter got his

nose in front and won the race from Archie by 3 seconds. C. Williamson, London, was third, and Tom Gaygan, Rest of England, 4th.

London won the Cup by 17 points to the Rest of England's 22. We were very pleased to see D. Faulkner and J. Kibler, of Birmingham, in the Rest of England team, and look forward to seeing many other new faces in the near future.

Handicap prizes were won by L. Dennis, A. Brown and A. Bradley, and were presented by Matron at Ovingdean.

His Worship the Mayor of Brighton presented the Cup to the London team after the race.

Swimming.—Those St. Dunstaners who are interested in swimming now have the opportunity of getting back in the swim at the expense of the Club, for Monday evenings, from 7—8 at the Seymour Baths, is when they may attend with an escort if they wish, providing they let Mr. Willis at Headquarters know on the day of attendance.

W. M.

7 Miles Sealed Handicap and Scratch Walk for the "Farmer Cup"

Handicap Times and Order of Finish

Competitor	Actual Time	H'cap Time	H'cap All.	H'cap Pos.
London Team				
1. C. Williamson	62-59	62-04	-55	6
2. W. Miller	61-38	61-38	Scr.	5
3. C. Stafford	70-33	62-18	8-15	7
4. D. Fleisig	70-50	62-40	8-10	9
5. A. Bradley	67-41	59-41	8-00	2
The Rest Team				
1. T. Gaygan	66-15	64-30	1-45	11
2. A. Brown	61-41	61-06	-35	3
3. L. Dennis	67-46	57-31	10-15	1
4. D. Faulkner	73-59	61-24	12-35	4
5. P. Cryan	68-41	62-36	6-05	8
6. L. Kibler	79-00	64-00	15-00	10

London. 17 points. Winners.

The Rest. 22 points.

Scratch. 1st, W. Miller. 2nd, A. Brown. 3rd, C. Williamson.

Handicap. 1st, L. Dennis. 2nd, A. Bradley. 3rd, A. Brown.

Handicapper and Timekeeper. Mr. W. J. Harris.

Braille Test Result

Special congratulations to Wally Thomas, who passed his braille writing test on May 15th. Wally did the test without an error—a great tribute to his perseverance, for at first he did not find it easy to develop his sense of touch. He is the first of the deaf-blind St. Dunstaners of World War II to pass the double test of reading and writing.

Miss M. Hamar Greenwood

From The Times :

"In the peaceful passing away of Mary Hamar Greenwood the world is the poorer for the loss of a rare personality. The eldest of a large family, including the late Viscount Greenwood and her two surviving sisters, Mrs. Amery and the Hon. Mrs. Simon Rodney, she left Canada as a young girl to study nursing in the United States, rising very soon to the top of the profession, both as a pioneer of modern-nursing and, above all, as an administrator. When what was already a remarkable career seemed cut short by blindness, she resolved to start life afresh, and threw herself with undaunted zest, as one of Sir Arthur Pearson's lieutenants, into the work for blinded soldiers, which he had inaugurated at St. Dunstan's. For years she was indefatigable in her work of teaching braille and, even more, of inspiring hope and self-confidence in these victims of the war. Many hundreds have owed to her wisdom and cheerful inspiration a new faith in the meaning of life. After a quarter of a century of unwearied and happy effort, she retired during the last war to her quiet little home at Bredon's Norton, in Gloucestershire, soon to find herself the centre of every kind of local activity, a serene and gracious figure to the end. L. S. A.

"I first met Mary Hamar Greenwood when I was a young student of St. Dunstan's in the First War. She was blind and was one of a band of skilled volunteers who taught braille to the newly blinded ex-servicemen. Often the young soldier had neglected to read with his eyes and to teach him to read with his fingers was a tough job. But she had exactly the qualities required, and many others, which gave encouragement and comfort.

"It was my pleasure as Chairman of St. Dunstan's in 1924 to invite Mary Hamar Greenwood to join our Executive Council, to which she contributed much as an expert, humanitarian and loyal colleague. During the next twenty years, including those of the Second War, she frequently visited St. Dunstan's Reunions throughout the country, and our various training establishments, where she was always welcome and a courageous and inspiring figure. She spoke well and had a great correspondence with St. Dunstaners all over

the world, and she will be remembered with affection and gratitude by our community." I. F.

A Sports Paper in Braille

For some years past, the blind have been strongly advocating the need for a Braille Sports Paper, and we are very glad to announce that arrangements have now been completed between the Braille Printing Works, Edinburgh, and the publishers of *Sporting Record* for the publishing of a Sports Weekly to be known as the *Braille Sporting Record*. The first issue will appear on Wednesday, 5th August, 1953, and thereafter the paper will be published on Wednesday of each week.

The *Braille Sporting Record* will contain all the main features included in the print edition of *Sporting Record*, and will give up-to-date information on such national sports as football, cricket, boxing, racing, rugby and golf, etc.

Will any St. Dunstaners who would like to receive the *Braille Sporting Record* apply at once to Mr. S. Jones, Men's Supplies.

Birmingham Club

The Swimming Gala has had to be cancelled. I am sure you will all be very sorry to hear that this is because Miss Fairhead has met with an accident.

AVIS SPURWAY.

Sports Day Results, 10th May, 1953

70 yards Running

1, J. Kibler, 10.2 secs.; 2, S. Southall, 10.4 secs.; 3, B. Bright, 11 secs.

Cricket Ball

1, J. Kibler, 64 yards; 2, B. Bright, 63 yards; 3, J. Smith, 59 yards.

Shot

1, J. Kibler, 32ft. 1in.; 2, B. Bright, 25ft. 10in.; 3, J. Smith, 24ft. 6in.

Medicine Ball

1, J. Kibler, 37ft. 2in.; 2, B. Bright, 35ft. 6in.; 3, J. Smith, 33ft. 9in.

Standing Long Jump

1, J. Kibler, 6ft. 4½in.; 2, B. Bright, 6ft. 1in.; 3, J. Smith, 6ft. ½in.

1,600 yards Walk

1, D. Faulkner, 8 min. 58 secs. (scratch); 2, G. Bilcliffe (1½ mins. start); 3, J. Kibler 10 secs. start).

Mr. Askew

We are very glad indeed to report that Mr. Askew is now back in his office again after his recent operation.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

In the April issue of the REVIEW, George Ellis politely expressed his wonderment as to why a V.A.D. in St. Dunstan's is termed "Sister." George's wonderment is shared by many St. Dunstaners and, indeed, by many visitors to St. Dunstan's. I so happened to be at Ovingdean when George's letter was published. It caused quite a commotion amongst some of the first war men. Sarcastic and insulting remarks were hurled at George Ellis. I thought it an awful pity that a fellow could not ask a simple question without being so badly insulted. "Letters to the Editor" in the May issue of the REVIEW aimed more insults at George Ellis. But most of those insults can be ignored, or be looked upon as a poverty of tact by their writers. But certainly Jack Young overstepped the mark when he said "I happen to have experienced some of the original happy family spirit and comradeship which, anyway, existed until the second world war ended."

Mr. Young strongly hints, but has not the guts to say it outright, that he thinks we fellows of the second world war have broken the "happy family" spirit of St. Dunstan's. It's a blessing that there are only a few in St. Dunstan's who think in the same channels as Mr. Young. Jim Shaw and one or two others have the theory that V.A.D.s are called "Sister" because, as Jim says, they are "very near to us." That, of course, is working on the "brotherly and sisterly" love angle. A charming little thought, perhaps, but if it be true, then certainly an orderly has the right to be called "Brother."

We wallahs of the second war have always appreciated the capabilities of the V.A.D.s. Indeed, our respect for them has always been as great as that of the first war men. But we have never had it explained to us why a V.A.D. is termed "Sister." Does it follow, then, that George Ellis should be condemned because he asked "Why"? I think not.

For some time now a handful of St. Dunstaners have made it their business to spread the nonsense that "The men of the first war do not mix with the men of the second war," or the other way round. But that is utter rot. We all mix very freely. It's just a matter of personal taste. I am

a totally deaf St. Dunstaner of the second war, and have found many good friends in the men of the first war. Men who are willing to help and enlighten me. I have, too, the same sort of good friends with men of the second war.

Yours sincerely,

WALLY THOMAS.

DEAR EDITOR,

When my wife read to me "Why Sister?" I said "George Ellis is asking for it." But let us be fair to George. He did say that he was not making an issue of it, and only wanted to know "Why?" When he coupled the name "Sister" with the qualified Services he was right. It is a rank given to "qualified" nurses who have passed certain examinations.

George was, I am sure, only referring to the V.A.D.s at Ovingdean and West House. At both these places there are, I believe, fully qualified Sisters, and when I was at Ovingdean I noticed that these Sisters called the others in the Sick Bay or Dispensary either Nurse or by name, and they also introduced me to any newcomer in either place as Sister So-and-so, or Nurse So-and-so. Now the V.A.D.s do have a course of First-Aid instruction, but they are not qualified Sisters, and calling them so can at times be very embarrassing to them. I have heard many a man introduce a V.A.D. as "Sister" and the reply, "Oh, yes? What hospital?" and then silence. I have also heard men call out "Sister" when they have wanted a letter read, but when a Sister has answered, the man has said "Is that Sister So-and-so?" holding his letter in his hand, and when told it is not, has asked for a certain Sister to read his letter, which I think made the Sister who answered his call very uncomfortable. That, I think, is George's point. He knows that whatever you call them they are doing a grand job, even if at times you can find fault with them (we all have our moods), but such organisations like St. Dunstan's cannot do without them, and however long you stay, Sister, Mrs., or Miss, or whatever they like to call you, God bless you all in the great work you are doing to make the lives of, at times, so very tiresome men happy.

What George did not ask for is some of the "sarcastic remarks" and underlying statements made in some of the replies to his letter. Don't worry, you 1914-18 men, I am sure that the 39-45 men are doing, and

will continue to do, their best for St. Dunstan's, just as well as any of you. Best of health to you all and keep smiling, "Ladies."

Yours sincerely,

Brighton.

BILL EDWARDS.

DEAR EDITOR,

It seems to me that there has been a tendency on the part of your correspondents to generate an unnecessary amount of hot air on this question, which surely can be resolved by a purely practical approach.

There really seems no reason why a V.A.D. should not be addressed as "Sister" when her surname is not known, or for that matter even when it is known, if the man so prefers. Equally, when the surname is known to the man, its use prefixed by Miss or Mrs. would not seem to be out of keeping in any way. I consider that such aspects as the social status of the then V.A.D.s of 35 years ago or so, or even of to-day, have no bearing on the question at all.

What is of importance, however, is that these and other ladies of the staff should at all times be addressed in a courteous way, whatever mode of address may be employed. It was my experience, when at Ovingdean, that not infrequently certain of the men, of riper years, so I gathered, were in the habit of shouting at and for a V.A.D. in an uncouth and objectionable manner. Whatever their position in relation to the senior members of the staff, the V.A.D.s are most certainly not there to be ordered about as though housemaids by any of the men. It is my impression that there is a certain element among probably a minority of the St. Dunstaners that has been conditioned by long years of practice and an attitude of self-centredness, to expect that at all times their personal needs at any given moment must be given immediate attention. It is probably too late to expect such men to alter their habits, but of course such habits will be eliminated by the passing of time.

Yours sincerely,

Iver, Bucks.

J. E. ROSTON.

DEAR EDITOR,

Re the old formula—Sister—let's cut out the cackle about this name, so long as we show them the respect which they richly deserve.

E.17

H. C. BAYER.

DEAR EDITOR,

I thank Brothers Prideaux, Bradford, Young, Hamilton, Pallanza and Shaw for their splendid replies to my question "Why Sister?" If I were to surrender to my stubbornness I would persist in arguing that it is possible for even a totally blind man to hail an unidentified V.A.D. without being bad mannered, but in the light of these letters and several opinions expressed to me verbally, how can I do anything else but submit to the view that the address of Sister has no better alternative? Yet this cannot be an unconditional surrender. Whatever relationship or status is implied by this title, I do know that it is not at all welcome when tacked on as a prefix to the V.A.D.'s surname. I submit that in sole cases this is where the embarrassment comes in. Mrs. Brown or Miss Green don't mind being called Sister when a man wants attention, but if that man knows to whom he is talking they feel rather uncomfortable at being addressed as Sister Brown or Sister Green. I realise that this was not the case in the early days, but I can assure you that this generation of V.A.D.s have in their ranks several members who would endorse this statement.

I found it very interesting to learn the origin of the title Sister, and can see that I was being rather shortsighted in associating it with the medical profession only. I do see that this approach does put a different complexion on the matter. Yet I am still dubious about the idea of our dear girls being Sisters to us in the family sense. This doubt will remain until one of them comes and says "Here is a letter for you, Brother Ellis!"

Young St. Dunstaners, impudent and apathetic. I must defend and condemn the men of the second war. First of all, in reference to the frivolous Dad and Pop. Surely no offence is meant by this. All the men of the first war are now old enough to be my father, so as the expression Dad is always associated in my mind with someone very dear to me, and highly respected, I cannot see that there is any slight to be taken. After all, we are all brothers and sisters, so presumably there must be Dads, too.

Mr. Hamilton certainly hit the mark when he commented on the apathy of the 1939-45 men. We of the Liverpool Club have at last realised the futility of canvassing for

more members among the many young St. Dunstaners living in our area. This is a question which surely needs an answer. Why the disinterest?

Yours sincerely,
Ovingdean. GEORGE ELLIS.

O Brother!

*We poor chaps are in a jam,
It really is a twister,
We don't know how to call "Les Girls,"
Whether Mrs., Miss, or Sister.
We meet them down at Ovingdean,
That place of fun and bliss,
They wait upon us hand and foot,
You know, Mrs., Sister, Miss.
Takes us walking, reads our mail,
Upon an errand whizzes,
That untiring female type,
Is it Sister, Miss or Mrs?
Visitors see them O, so rare,
Their voices are still hazy,
Of course should you be a trainee
They are just Gert or Daisy.
Then, of course, there are the males,
They always treat us cordially,
I can, however, hear their shout,
Way up stairs, "Hi Orderly."
It is a puzzle, I admit,
My brain has raised a blister,
I think I need an aspirin,
I've got the word, it's "Sister."*

JOHN MUDGE.

Sister!

*A call by any name would sound as sweet,
And bring us leaping to our eager feet!
We answer to "Miss So-and-So" or "Sister,"
And call you—as preferred—plain "Bert" or
"Mister."
The choice is yours; but should you need assistance,
Here are some ways to hail us from a distance.
Call us the "Oy Girls"—then should some
"dear Boy"
Require assistance all he shouts is "Oy!"
Or why not cultivate the use of Morse?
(This way would save your voice becoming hoarse),
Then, when your string bag's getting in a mess
You simply have to signal "S O S!"
The choice is yours (except for Christian names).
The Yanks, no doubt, would simply call us
"Dames."
But here's a tip. When using any title
Your tone of voice—to us—is far more vital.
Should it contain that ring of warm affection,
Why! Any name at all would sound Perfection!
Ovingdean. "SMITHY."*

DEAR EDITOR,

I have noticed that some readers of Talking Books have a disconcerting habit of dropping the voice to a whisper or assuming a quiet confidential tone when the characters they are "acting" whisper or talk confidentially. Of course the author has taken care to inform the reader that the character whispered, so there is really no need for the recorder to suit the action to the word. This whispering and low tone has two undesirable consequences. In the first place it means that with such a recorder, it is necessary for the Talking Book user to turn up the volume so much that when the normal voice is resumed the volume becomes excessive, and secondly the whispered or softly spoken passages become obliterated by needle scratch noise after the record has been in use for a bit, and one is irritated by the need to strain the ears in an attempt to pick out what is being said. It does seem to me, too, that most readers read too fast and too much in the lower register. I do not mean that I favour a monotonous style, but I feel that all reading should be kept within fairly narrow limits of volume variation—as is the B.B.C. news bulletin.

Teignmouth.

THOMAS FLOYD.

DEAR EDITOR,

Would it not be advisable to ask the young ladies of to-day if in fact they feel any embarrassment or that the methods of the older men are corny?

Ben Hamilton aptly says, "We carried a torch," which it is up to the new men to pick up. We do not want the torch to become a firebrand in the hands of men who pretend to despise the various works to which we put our hands. Perhaps many of us in our own little workshops have become out of touch though not out of sympathy with the rising generation, and the reminiscences of greybeards sound wearisome to the youngsters with jet-propelled minds. I hope, however, that we will all realise that it was the spirit of a new adventure that carried us forward, and these young men entering upon their great adventure along a well-blazed trail will remember that it was not the individual, but the family of St. Dunstan's, fathered by Sir Arthur Pearson, who lit the first torch.

Castle Cary.

A. J. RADFORD.

DEAR EDITOR,

I should like to express my appreciation for all the wonderful work which was done on the Derby Day outing.

All our thanks are due to the people who put in such a lot of hard work, both before the day and during the day; Mrs. Coma, Mr. Moore, and all the back-room boys and girls who prepared the eats, the various people who organised the whole thing, and last but by no means least the V.A.D.s. They worked so very hard during the day sorting out and putting on bets for us that they must have been tired out, but they remained cheerful throughout the day and were the soul of cheerfulness and help to the men.

Yours sincerely,

Ovingdean.

JOHNNY WALKER.

DEAR EDITOR,

Mr. J. Radford, of Castle Cary, feels embarrassed when addressed as 'Daddy' or 'Pop,' and feels like a 'has-been.' I'd rather be a 'has-been' than a 'might have been.' According to rumours, since I came to St. Dunstan's, I've been called everything under the sun. I don't mind a bit. I only wish I could hear it.

GEO. FALLOWFIELD.

DEAR EDITOR,

"I am a blind French soldier, former guest of St. Dunstan's in 1921, Cornwall Terrace, and friend of Sir Arthur Pearson. I have in Biarritz, well-known sea resort, a large house surrounded by a large garden, running hot water, three bathrooms, first class French food. I would be very glad to receive as paying guests my English brothers in blindness. I would ask them a special low price of 900 francs a day, including wine and coffee. I play chess. Their friends and relatives would also be welcome.

"My wife is Master of Arts in German. I am Master of Arts, Philosophy, and LL.D. of Harvard Law School and we can give a good French tuition to those who want to study and get degrees in France or in England. The charge in that case would, of course, be a little more, and we would arrange the documents necessary to send to the Office of Exchange in London to get the extra pounds necessary for their studies." GUSTAVE ENVIN.

[If any St. Dunstaner is interested, the Editor will be delighted to send M. Envin's address.]

Bowls In Australia

Some little time ago members of the Victorian Blinded Soldiers' Bowling Club, accompanied by some of their wives and sighted "skippers," visited Mildura and played a series of matches in the Sunryasia area. The visit lasted a week and seven games were arranged with the district Bowling Clubs. The blinded men won two of the games played.

The local District Board of the Returned Servicemen's Association made the arrangements for the entertainment of the guests. On arrival they were tendered a civic reception by the Mayor of Mildura and later they were conducted to the various places of interest in the district, including the Dried Fruit Packing sheds. They were tendered an official dinner and several socials and suppers were held in their honour. Representatives of the party also attended Rotary and Legacy dinners.

The people of Mildura were much impressed with the cheerfulness and remarkable ability the members displayed in the game of bowls. The thoughtful action of their President, Joe Lynch, in placing a wreath in memory of fallen comrades on the cenotaph was much appreciated by the people of Mildura.

Old St. Dunstaners may be interested in the personnel of the teams competing—the last named in each case being the sighted skipper-coach:

Bill Gray, Joe Lynch, Gabe Aarons, Bob Rouse (S).

Les Holt, Ted Glew, Bert Aldersley, Wally Nowatna (S).

Foster McConnell, Bill Clifton, Tommy Meldrum, Norm. Fraser (S).

Roger Power, Jack Urquart, Charlie Dawe, Jack Quennell (S).

The Club was formed about 18 months ago and the degree of accuracy attained by the players is astounding. From my observations I have concluded that the game of bowls is an excellent recreation for blinded servicemen and I will give you two reasons for coming to this conclusion: (1) he is given an exhilarating pastime with and against his sighted comrades and (2) he competes with them on the level and with the same equipment.

During the game several points are observed to assist the players. The bowls are kept in the one position on one side of the mat. The mat is placed by a sighted

player and carefully aligned with the peg. The player is then placed on the mat and he throws the "kitty" which is straightened on the peg, and the distance—estimated from kitty to mat—is called by the skipper, *i.e.* 75 feet.

The leader then stands on the mat and assuming that he is a right-hand player desiring to play a fore-hand shot he places his left foot along the side of the mat on the left edge and about the middle. He then places his right foot against his left—feet closed. Having estimated the "green" he turns his right foot to the right, say two fingers or three fingers, according to the green required. He then turns his left foot to his right and is thus facing the direction he desires to bowl. The bowl is then delivered, and the skipper indicates the result by telling the bowler that he is too wide or too narrow and the finishing position of the bowl. The finishing position is indicated by the clock system, *i.e.* five feet short at five o'clock, or say three feet wide at nine o'clock, etc. If a position bowl is required by the skipper the spot where the bowl is wanted is called by the clock system, such as "I want a bowl ten feet past the jack at eleven o'clock."

These few hurried notes may or may not be of interest. However, the boys are getting a great kick out of the game, and country clubs are getting a thrill in arranging trips and games for them. J. R. BENNETT.

At Much Oving-in-the-Dean

Few of us in the large audience waiting to see the Coronation Concert were aware of the apprehension which was drying the tongues of the unseen performers. Nor was this uneasiness confined to the dressing-room. Was I the only one who sat anticipating the agony which can accompany an amateur presentation? But anxiety from both sides of the footlights was soon dispersed and in its place was created a warm affinity between audience and artistes. Mr. Moore, the dining-room steward, who had worked so unselfishly to make the show a success must have felt very gratified as he stood backstage.

V.A.D. Miss Smith and Orderly George Rees were co-producers, and both took an active part in the show. Smithie wrote the material for several items and George Rees, too, can claim distinction for his part in a riotous piece of melodrama. George Short and Lyndon Mason both

bewhiskered themselves for this bit of nonsense. It is difficult to say so little about this grand concert and yet have to use superlatives, but I am bound to do just this. Towards the end of a typically amusing sketch by Smithie, she and Miss Powell contrived to change the mood from comic to sentimental, and this turned out to be a very clever lead up to the popular song, "Golden Coach," which provoked the people out front into a hearty second chorus. A happy Coronation spirit seized one and all. Well done, Smithie and P. Trainee Stuart Craig blasted out a hot trumpet chorus in the best jazz tradition. I thought the Osborne family act was one of the high spots, particularly Joan, who made this a personal triumph. Her father, Joe Walch, used his baritone cleverly to contrast it with Bob's tenor voice. Then there was the inimitable Miss Carlton, who once again brought the house down with her breezy burlesque.

The braille teaching staff were further represented by Les White, who sang an appealing Novello ballad with pleasing sincerity, and Killie, who, after endearing himself to the audience earlier, came on again to remind us with startling conviction of Bernard Miles. I shall think of Killie for a long time to come, not as a teacher but as a lusty old son of the soil. Burlington Bertie may not be exactly new, but there was something very refreshing in the way Servedy-Staff Violet Reeves put it over. Her young son played his part in the opening of the show. A real professional touch was added by four very attractive young women, who called themselves The Electric Belles. They danced a lively chorus number, and because of their excellence we owe double thanks to Horace Harnott, the pianist, for bringing them along. Finally, may I put in a word about our Compère. It was because of his repartee between the acts that we were distracted from the inevitable bumping and knocking behind the curtain. Must not disclose name of this suave gentleman, but in terms of abbreviation one could learn much from his title: Compère. G. W. E.

★ ★ ★

The two little grandsons of E. Miller, of East Ham, took second and third prizes at East Ham Fancy Dress Parade. Four year old Alan was "Charlie Chaplin" and seven year old Stephen was a Chelsea Pensioner!

Ovingdean Notes

The Coronation decorations at Ovingdean were almost completed by Whitsun weekend, and indeed from then until the Derby Outing on June 6th, we had an almost continual whirl of activity.

Coronation week itself was celebrated with a number of special events. They began on Saturday with a dance in the lounge and on Sunday morning a very large party went into Brighton to the Palace Pier and from there enjoyed a morning sea trip.

Brighton, incidentally, has been looking very festive and has had some most attractive decorations. Many of the larger buildings have been floodlit, and this included the two St. Dunstan's Homes. Ovingdean was particularly attractive, standing as it does on the hillside along the main coast road and was admired by many visitors to the town. The building achieved a new mellowness in the amber glow of the floodlights and the gardeners had managed a special display of red, white and blue blossoms in the flower-bed alongside the main entrance. Over the porch were a number of flags resting in red, white and blue tubs, whilst above fluttered St. Dunstan's standard and, higher still, the Union Jack.

Coming into the main hall the visitor was greeted with draped flags and four shields bearing the emblems of Great Britain. The Honours Boards at the far end of the hall were framed by bunting of the national colours, and to the right of the foot of the main stairway, in the little recess, a miniature garden had been made with both cut and growing flowers. These flowers were particularly admired by many of the local visitors and certainly lent a new and festive air to the entrance hall. Both the lounge and dining room were gaily decorated and were looking very nice indeed. A coloured photograph of Her Majesty the Queen and another of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh had been mounted on royal blue backgrounds and there were yellow and red pennants hanging from the wall lights alongside. The red of the curtains added considerably to the general colour of the rooms and just everyone seemed to be in the mood for celebrating!

On Sunday evening the entertainments got under way with an amusing item from the Staff entitled "Coronation Concoction,"

which is mentioned elsewhere in this REVIEW, so it is enough, therefore, for us to say it was played to a large and most appreciative audience.

On Monday, for those who were not in the Coronation Party going to London, arrangements had been made to go to Arundel Castle, the home of the Earl of Norfolk, Marshal of England, who was responsible for all the Coronation arrangements. It was, therefore, at this time a visit of particular interest.

The Coronation party to London left Ovingdean at about 5 p.m. on Monday and we were not to see them here again until late on Wednesday evening. On that day a special Coronation dinner was served at Ovingdean and this was followed by the Carnival Ball, to which the London party returned in time to take part. Most of the men who had remained at Ovingdean had listened throughout the day to the B.B.C. broadcast of the ceremony and parade and there was much discussion with those who had actually "gone to Town." The dance was over at 1 a.m. and gradually the groups dispersed and all was quiet!

Next day, however, we were at it again! A coach drive to Herstmonceux in the afternoon and a party to the theatre in the evening. Another coach drive on Friday and a dance in the evening.

Saturday, 6th June, completing a memorable week, brought us to the Derby Outing, when three coaches took men from Ovingdean and West House to Epsom. This year, the first time for several when the race has been on a Saturday, meant that Ovingdean trainees were able to join the Outing party. The catering department, despite the heavy load put upon them during the Coronation Week, came up to scratch once again and provided the party with what has become the traditional Derby pack and is always so much enjoyed.

Just one week at Ovingdean? Well, not exactly a normal week anyway, but one which we shall all, for a variety of reasons, long remember.

Deaf Reunion at Ovingdean

This annual event was held at Ovingdean from 30th April until Tuesday, 5th May. Although numbers were smaller this time those attending seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves and we hope that this was so. We enjoyed having them.

The Derby Sweepstake

On May 29th, the draw for the Derby Sweepstake was made at the London Club by Messrs. "Jock" Brown and "Tiny" Fleming. Mr. Willis presided.

This year the response has not been as heavy as in past years. Excluding four tickets which were declared void (two went astray in the post and two were misprints), 2,507 tickets were sold. This was some three hundred less than last year. After deducting printing and postage expenses (£14 7s. 6d.), £299 was left for distribution in accordance with the printed rules.

The first three lucky prize-winners were:

1st **Pinza—W. Robbins, Bournemouth**
(2381) **£149 10s.**

2nd **Aureole—J. C. Doughty, Great Yarmouth** (528) **£59 16s.**

3rd **Pink Horse—S. J. Jordan, Luston**
(2378) **£29 18s.**

£59 16s. was distributed among those whose horse actually started, each receiving £2 9s. 10d. They were:

BARROWBY COURT—A. H. CAPPER, Reading—1899
CHATSWORTH—R. C. BOTLY, Surbiton—334

CITY SCANDAL—S. J. JORDAN, Luston—2377

DURHAM CASTLE—F. W. WALKER, Gosport—2111

EMPIRE HONEY—A. J. CAPLE, Cardiff—2261

FELLERMELAD—F. J. MEARS, Beeston—278

FE SHAING—G. BULLEN, Brighton—1770

GALA PERFORMANCE—W. HEUSHAW, Halstead
—1230

GOOD BRANDY—T. CONNERTON, Blackpool—1676

JAFFA II—A. HAYES, Nottingham—1538

MOUNTAIN KING—J. C. WILLIAMS, Haywards
Heath—1171

NEARULA—HAROLD DOWNS, Rishton—2127

NOVARULLAH—H. H. WELLS, Leicester—554

PETER-SO-GAY—H. H. BARNARD, E.11—1878

PHAREL—A. CARRICK, N.W.8—2136

PREMONITION—A. CHARMAN, Preston—1251

PRINCE CANARINA—L. JOHNS, Totnes—59

PRINCE CHARLEMAGNE—G. B. REED, Wey-
bridge—1520

SCPIO—C. E. BEAUFOY, Dover—596

SHIKAMPUR—S. WEBSTER, S.E.23—2253

STAR OF THE FOREST—E. H. NORTH, Taunton
—190

TIMBERLAND—F. COLLINGE, Blackpool—314

VICTORY ROLL—W. CAPSTICK, Lancaster—890

WINDY—R. DOBROWOLSKI, Hove—575

Those drawing horses which did not start were: E. W. Myles (Teddington), AMADO MIO (2101); W. J. Dimond, East Grinstead, BANDOOLA (172); H. Day, West House, CRAFTSMAN (441); W. Coleman, Carshalton, CRITICISM (2163); H. F. Porter, Kingston, KING OF THE TUDORS (1149); J. B. Campbell, Houghton-le-Spring, KITHYRA (368); H. F. Beed, Southampton, OAKLEYLAD (1691). F. Griffie, of Bristol, drew THE FIELD.

The British Legion Conference

At the British Legion Conference which took place at Blackpool over the Whitsun week-end, Sir Ian Fraser, President, referring to the War Pensions Campaign, said, "We were all very disappointed indeed when no increase in our basic rate was provided in the Budget and when subsequently the Minister said there would be no major change for the present. But I do not think we should be discouraged. There is a tendency, when we do not get all that we think right, to feel that we have failed entirely, but this is to undervalue what had been done by successive Governments, and also the effect of the Legion's representations. The Legion is a patriotic body, mindful of the needs of others, but we feel our claim is a special one, not to be weighed in the balance with all of these, but dealt with on its own merits." Sir Ian went on, "I discern a growing uneasiness amongst Members of Parliament on all sides of the House that Britain is not yet fulfilling her obligations to our war pensioners as she should, and I attribute this in large measure to the success of our representations."

Speaking of the proposed merging of the Ministry of Pensions with other Ministries, Sir Ian said that they had the Prime Minister's assurance that the merger would not adversely affect war pensioners. He felt sure that this was the intention of the Government, but he felt bound to say that if the proposal was carried out, he would regret it very much. "Although we have argued with Ministers and Ministries of Pensions under all Governments, we have nevertheless come to look upon them as our special guardian, and we shall feel that we are losing a friend."

Sir Ian said that they were all very interested in the regular sailor, soldier and airman, and the militiaman, but he thought more could be done to voice his aspirations and needs. He hoped that the new Chairman (Captain A. Hampson), who he knew felt keenly about this matter, would guide the Legion towards a better service to these young men so that they could draw large numbers of them into the Legion's ranks.

Mr. Ernest Russell, a prominent Leeds St. Dunstaner, opposed a suggestion that guide dogs should be subsidised by the Government. He thought the attendance allowance might be affected.

From All Quarters

"B.M.B.," the house magazine of British Manufactured Bearings, Ltd., of Crawley, devoted two pages to a "close-up" of Jack Hill, who is a capstan operator in their Turning Shop. A photograph of Jack with Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and another at his lathe, illustrated the article, which ended with the words, "Jack and his beret are a very familiar and well-loved sight here at Charlwood."

★ ★ ★

Mr. and Mrs. A. Briggs, of Norwich, are having a wonderful holiday in the United States with their daughter, who married an American soldier.

★ ★ ★

Margaret Paterson was responsible for the concert at the "Lest We Forget" party organised by the Chessington Branch of the British Legion, Women's Section, in which Margaret also took part.

★ ★ ★

Doug. Cashmore took the salute on May 10th at the British Legion Rally for Selly Oak. With him on the saluting base was an 84-year-old soldier of the 1914-1918 war.

★ ★ ★

J. Nicol, of Hebburn-on-Tyne, stood for his local Council at the recent elections, but was defeated by just over one hundred votes. As the successful candidate's votes were reduced from the last election, we hope our St. Dunstaner will be elected next time.

★ ★ ★

Alexander Scott, of Belfast, contributed some splendid articles to a series, "The Brotherhood of the Blind," which recently appeared in the local paper, "Ireland's Saturday Night." His first was entitled, "Where Eyes Aren't Really Necessary," and the second, "A New Boy at St. Dunstan's." There are others to come.

★ ★ ★

Arthur Finney had the unique compliment of being asked by Finchley Coronation Committee to act as Commentator at the Military Tattoo which was part of the Borough's Coronation Celebrations. Mr. Finney did not have an opportunity of studying the script until the night before the Tattoo. He gave the commentary from the roof of the grandstand.

★ ★ ★

Douglas Warden, of Shepherds Bush, shared the second and third prizes in the

N.I.B. Braille Centenary Poetry Contest. His poem, "Devon Port," was published in the "New Beacon."

★ ★ ★

From a newspaper cutting sent to us by W. Wainman, of Davyhulme, Manchester, we read of the splendid way in which John Seufert, of North Sydney, New South Wales, is overcoming his double handicap. Since John was blinded and made handless as the result of the explosion of a Japanese mine, he has learnt braille, typewriting and carpentry. He had been a carpenter before the war and he determined to take up his trade again. He reads braille with the stump of his wrist. He and his brother-in-law have constructed all kinds of gadgets which John could screw into his "gauntlets" for handling various tools. He has made built-in cupboards, kitchen furniture, occasional tables and a radiogram cabinet complete with shelves for records.

Rotary

E. Slaughter, of Salisbury, has been nominated as President-Elect of his Rotary Club and will be installed on the first Monday in July. He is believed to be the first blind President in R.I.B.I., and the first St. Dunstaner to hold that office.

Mr. Slaughter is at present attending the World Convention of Rotary in Paris.

Working Party Report

Dame Florence Bevin, D.B.E., the widow of Mr. Ernest Bevin, has kindly given to St. Dunstan's a braille copy of the Working Party's Report on the Employment of the Blind, which belonged to her husband. If any St. Dunstaner would like to borrow this, will he please apply to Mr. Wills.

National Library Braille Reading Test, 1953

Class "C," Section 1:

(Those who learned braille over the age of 16, but before 1938):—

1. F. Rhodes (St. Dunstaner).
2. S. Webster (St. Dunstaner).

Class "C" Section 2:—

(Those who learnt braille over the age of 16, but after 1938):—

1. F. Ripley (St. Dunstaner).
2. Paul Walker (St. Dunstaner).
3. J. Padley (St. Dunstaner).

Runners-up: J. Pryor (St. Dunstaner).

R. Bridger, of Stoke Newington, won first place in the Open Competition.

Young St. Dunstaners

Edwin Brooks (Bournemouth) is on active service off the Korean coast.

★ ★ ★

Janet Halsall won first prize at a Southport Eisteddfod for soprano solo, and first prize for a hymn composition. She is following her father, who also has a good voice.

★ ★ ★

Colin Biggs (Lee) has won a scholarship to the Grammar School, with 100% marks in arithmetic and general intelligence.

★ ★ ★

Glyn Wheeler, of Rhondda, has gained a place at Porth Grammar School.

★ ★ ★

Jacqueline Scrimgour, Middlesbrough, has passed the Intermediate Music Examination for the Royal Victoria College of London.

Marriages

On May 2nd, Edmond Lincoln, Bebington, to Miss Doreen Carruthers.

On May 16th, Joan Watson, Carlisle, to A. Tailford.

On May 23rd, Adeline Hurst, Great Longstone, to Michael Sellors.

Leslie Back (Shaldon) has married Miss Pamela Emmerson in Cape Town, South Africa.

J. Bird's son flew back from South Africa to be married in Clacton on June 6th.

Mr. J. Russell

His friends will hear with the deepest regret of the death of Mr. J. Russell, who was for many years employed in our Packing Department, and who retired in November, 1944, having reached the age of sixty-five. His charm of manner and quiet, kindly nature made him a very popular and respected member of our staff. He had spent a happy retirement but he was taken seriously ill and he died in hospital. Mr.

Reg. White, an old colleague, who had kept in constant touch with him, represented St. Dunstan's at the funeral.

Births

HODDER—On May 14th, to the wife of W. H. Hodder, of Hull, a daughter—Elaine.

WEEKS—On May 25th, to the wife of J. Weeks, of Hastings, a son—Marcus James.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

HACKETT—To M. Hackett, of Patcham, whose mother and father have died within five days of each other.

INGREY—To Bruce Ingrey, of Beddington, whose wife died in hospital on May 23rd, after a short illness.

MOWTELL—To F. Mowtell, of Cramlington, in the loss of his eldest sister.

ROBINSON—To W. Robinson ("Robby"), of N.4, who has recently lost his mother.

SMITH—To C. Smith, of Bury St. Edmunds, who lost his sister early this year.

Marriage

HARRIS—On May 30th, S. J. Harris, of Reading.

For Sale

"Baby Belling" electric cooker together with kettle point unit. Comprises hot plate (fitted with Simmerstat control), oven, hot cupboard, and storage unit for utensils. Guaranteed good condition. Owner moving and obliged to change to gas cooking. Price (carriage paid) £9. R. Bridger, 126 Manor Road, Stoke Newington, N.16. (Tel. Stamford Hill 9079, after 6 p.m.)

Grandfathers

C. J. Turley, of Barrow-in-Furness; J. E. Lambourne, of Bletchley; W. H. Wright, Verwood (the first granddaughter); P. Sheridan, of Wishaw (for the twentieth time); W. Bamber of Brighton.

"In Memory"—continued

Sergeant Rein Waas, Royal Dutch Forces (Prinses Irene Brigade)

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death at the age of thirty-four of Rein Waas, of Nijmegen, Holland.

Rein came to us at Church Stretton in 1943 after he had been blinded while serving in this country with the Dutch Army. His courage, but especially his gay spirit, soon endeared him to comrades and teachers alike. He had the additional difficulty of language to cope with but proudly he passed his tests. He trained as a telephone operator and took a post with the Dutch Military Authorities in London. He remained in the Dutch Army (he was promoted to Sergeant, First Class), and in 1946 he returned to Holland, where he was appointed Chief Telephonist at the Military Telephone Service. But Rein never forgot us. On the occasions when he returned to this country he never failed to visit Headquarters and his old friends. He was tremendously proud of being a St. Dunstaner and of his badge which he always wore, and which was buried with him. At his funeral on May 19th, which was conducted with full military honours, St. Dunstan's poppy wreath, in the form of our badge, was placed on his grave. Crowds lined the route which followed the road he took with his guide dog on his way to work. To Mamie, his wife, whom he met and married in England, our deep sympathy is extended.

“In Memory”

Gunner George Dennis, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

With deep regret we record the death of G. Dennis, of Portsmouth. He was sixty-five.

Blinded in the First World War, he trained with us in 1915 in basket-making and later became a Home Teacher. Ill-health, however, forced him to retire last July and he has since been critically ill. He was well known as a tireless social worker and at his suggestion a garden of sweet-smelling flowers is shortly to be planted at Hulsea Lido.

The funeral service was attended by contingents of the Old Contemptibles, the British Legion, and the Portsmouth Post-War Brotherhood. A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the many flowers. A bugler sounded the Last Post.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Dennis and her children.

Rifleman Edward James Hall, *10th King's Royal Rifles*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of E. J. Hall, of West House, Portland Place. He was 72.

He came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1916, and trained as a mat-maker and he followed this occupation for many years. He was admitted as a permanent resident at St. Dunstan's in 1943. His health had been bad for many years.

A wreath from his St. Dunstan's friends at Brighton and Sir Ian's wreath of poppies were sent for the funeral.

Pioneer Thomas Butler, *Royal Engineers*

With deep regret we record the death of T. Butler, of Distington.

He served from December, 1915, until March, 1918, but he did not come to us until 1935. He was never very strong and could only take up the lightest of occupations. For a long time he had been very unwell and he died at his home on May 14th.

A wreath of poppies in the form of our badge was sent for the funeral from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

Private Ernest Swingler, *1st Lincolnshire Regt.*

With deep regret we record the death of E. Swingler, of Tuxford, Nottinghamshire.

He was wounded at Ypres and came to us in 1915. He trained as a basket-maker but for some considerable time before his death he had been unable to do much heavy work. A long illness followed and he died in hospital on May 7th.

Sir Ian's wreath of poppies was sent for the funeral.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his family.

Private Lauchlan McCairn, *Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of L. McCairn, of Birkenhead.

He saw service with his regiment from March, 1907, until July, 1915, when he was wounded in France. He did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1946—he was already a sick man and he was unable to do a great deal of work. He spent one or two holidays at Brighton and, in fact, had only just returned home a few days before he was taken suddenly ill. He was admitted to hospital where he died on May 11th.

Among the flowers at the funeral was St. Dunstan's badge of poppies.

We extend our deep sympathy to Mrs. McCairn and her family.

Corporal George Bertram Birkett, *1/6 King's Liverpool Regt.*

With deep regret we record the death of G. Birkett, of Liverpool, who served from September, 1914, until May, 1917. He had been wounded near Ypres in January that year and he came to us soon afterwards. He was trained as a poultry farmer and telephonist and he had worked for a considerable number of years, but for a long time before his death on May 10th he was a very sick man.

The funeral was attended by Miss Doel; Sir Ian's poppy wreath was among the flowers.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to his relatives.

Private Harry Hulme, *10th Manchester Regt.*

With deep regret we record the death of H. Hulme, of Oldham.

Harry served from August 8th, 1914, until October, 1915; he was wounded at the Dardanelles and came to us in 1915. He trained as a poultry farmer and later as a mat-maker; he also attempted factory work for a while but for some years he had only been able to do light work. He died at his home on May 6th after a comparatively short illness.

St. Dunstan's was represented at the funeral by Messrs. J. McDonald and J. Greaves, of Oldham; our wreath of poppies was among the many flowers.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Hulme and her family.

Lieut. Elias Bass, D.C.M., *King's Royal Rifle Corps*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of Elias Bass, of Cape Town, South Africa.

This officer's blindness was a result of mustard gas poisoning and some St. Dunstaners will remember him when he was in training shortly before the last war.

He had planned to come to England this year and would have arrived this month.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Bass.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

PAID 1.50
GREAT BRITAIN
JULY 1953

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 407—VOLUME XXXVII

JULY, 1953

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

THE fruitful use of leisure is important to all of us, not least to the blind. There are, even for the busiest, periods when one is off duty and when for domestic or other reasons one cannot rely upon the companionship of a member of the household to read or walk. Thus the planning of occupation for leisure moments becomes important because the number of readily available pastimes, such as listening to the wireless or reading braille, is limited.

You can walk round the garden by yourself and some venture further afield in familiar surroundings. You can make a circle of friends at the local pub or the British Legion Club, where they will be ready to welcome you, and you can enjoy fellowship and talk, as well as a pint of beer. For some it requires an effort of will to go out alone and overcome the shyness of entering a crowded bar or clubroom, not knowing who will be there; but it is an effort well worth making.

I came across a St. Dunstaner the other day who, in spite of extraordinary difficulties, has developed a quite unusual hobby, though curiously enough it is one of which long years ago I had some experience. John Proctor, who is quite blind and has lost both his hands and part of his hearing, has passed the Morse Code and other tests required by the General Post Office for the issue of a Wireless Transmitting licence and has established himself as one of the select band of amateur transmitters. With the generous help of the Radio Club of Brighton, and of St. Dunstan's, he has up-to-date equipment which enables him to converse by Morse with other amateurs near and far; and he can work the apparatus, switching on, tuning in, etc., entirely unaided. His use of the Morse key, a delicate job with his stumps, is impressive. Already, in a few weeks, he has exchanged messages with other amateurs in England, Scotland and Norway. Later he may qualify to convert his apparatus to Radio Telephony. Thus John has acquired a circle of friends to talk things over with in his own house or in theirs, or at the local society's meetings, as well as a host of invisible friends all over Europe, with whom he can make contact from time to time. Admittedly, this hobby is exceptional, but then John is an exceptional man.

After visiting John and, I will admit, showing off a little my own long disused knowledge of Morse—for I was myself one of the early amateurs and had my own station in the 1920s—I went on to the annual St. Dunstan's Sports at Ovingdean.

Although I am accustomed to St. Dunstan's parties going with a swing, I was nevertheless impressed by the organisation of this event and the happy spirit that prevailed there. The performers throwing the cricket ball or discus, doing the 70 yards sprint all out, were skilful athletes, and there were of course events for the girls, the veterans and the children. Sports

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GREAT BRITAIN
JULY 1953

specially adapted for the blind are enjoyed by many St. Dunstan's clubs and occasional camping holiday groups throughout the country, and some of our men join in games of bowls or darts or other sports with their local clubs.

At the Sports Meeting I met the leading members of a Sussex deep-sea angling society. They go out in motor-boats or rowing boats fishing for rock cod, mackerel and other fish, off the Sussex coast, and the other day they arranged an outing for nine St. Dunstaners. The sun and the fresh sea air, the fun of catching a fish or the disappointment of losing one, and the talk, especially perhaps the swopping of tall stories over a drink afterwards, contributed to a very good day. St. Dunstan's expresses its thanks to the anglers. Many a St. Dunstaner might do worse than make friends with local angling societies on the coast or inland, and enjoy a day out and a lot of fun.

All these things demand some thought and initiative on the part of the blind man, but I am sure he will be rewarded for a little planning of his leisure.

IAN FRASER.

The London Reunion

This year we are holding the London Reunion in October in the Windsor Room of the Coventry Street Corner House, instead of at the Seymour Hall, as this is now too large for our needs.

The Reunion will take the form of a Dinner, with dancing to follow, so will be more on the lines of the provincial meetings. Such being the case, invitations will be issued in due course, through the Welfare Visitor, for the London Area men who have not been invited to any other Reunion this year.

Political Candidate

By three votes only, Major E. A. Dunlop, O.B.E., G.M., of Ottawa, Canada, missed nomination as the Progressive Conservative candidate in North Renfrew for the forthcoming federal election. A second ballot was needed before the candidate was chosen. The successful candidate had stood for the party seven times previously; it was our St. Dunstaner's first attempt to enter the field of politics. We look forward to hearing of his nomination at the next election in a few years' time.

Presented to the Queen

J. Humphrey, of Londonderry, and Mrs. Humphrey were presented to the Queen when Her Majesty attended the Royal Garden Party at Stormont during her visit to Northern Ireland.

Another St. Dunstaner, A. Scott, of Belfast, was also present at the Stormont Royal Garden Party and met Her Majesty.

★ ★ ★

Bill Lowings, of Chandlers Ford, made a special nursery basket for the baby born in the borough of Eastleigh nearest to noon on Coronation Day. The presentation of the basket was made by the Deputy Mayor.

Coronation Medals

Alf. Lincoln, of Wirral, a tester at the Junction Board of the G.P.O., whose years of service total thirty-nine, received the Coronation Medal; John Proctor, of Rottingdean, travel agent, also was awarded the Coronation Medal.

Rotary

E. Slaughter, of Salisbury, who was this month installed as President of his Rotary Club, is not, as we thought, the first St. Dunstaner to become President in R.I.B.I. Godfrey Robinson holds that honour. Mr. Robinson was elected to the Hull Rotary Club in 1928, was President for the year 1937-38, and is still a member.

Tribute

We have had many letters of appreciation of the Coronation Crown, but the following is so unique that we make no apology for printing it. The St. Dunstaner referred to is Samat Bin Samat, B.E.M., who enlisted in 1915 and served with the Merchant Navy.

"The beautiful gift crown piece has just this moment been handed to Mr. Samat. He is feeling it without saying a word, but all kinds of emotions are passing over his countenance—pride, happiness, etc.

"Now he stands straight up and kisses the crown piece and says, 'God bless my Queen, God give my Queen long life and a wise heart and head. God bless Sir Ian and his lady.' This is all in his broken English. He is now asking me to say thank you very much."

SHEILA M. OMAR.

★ ★ ★

As in past years there will be no REVIEW for August.

London Club Notes

Bridge Notes.—On June 20th the Bridge Club paid their third annual visit to the Headquarters of the London County Contract Bridge Association. We again managed to send six team of four, so were able to play six teams of Masters. The Club presented to the top team of the Masters a cigarette box each, the cigarette boxes being made by St. Dunstaners. The Masters in their turn presented to our top team (H. Gover, P. Nuyens, F. Winter and C. Thompson) a pewter pint mug. This team were only 150 points in front of the second (W. Bishop, G. Jolly, C. F. Bulman and B. Ingrey). Our old friend, A. Field, acted as M.C. and with tea at 4 p.m. and beer at 6 p.m., we must again say thanks to the L.C.C.B.A.

We have played two club matches, one of which we lost and the other we won by 800 points.

On Sunday, May 31st, twelve members of the Bridge Section were entertained for the day by Messrs. Lyons at Dorking. Our members were picked up and taken to Dorking by car, and with lunch, bridge and yarns, spent a very pleasant day. Again many thanks to Messrs. Lyons.

H. GOVER.

Outdoor Section—

Five Mile Walking Match

St. Dunstan's v. Bowring A.C.

Regents Park, 16th June, 1953

Order of Finish		Time	H'cp All.	H'cp Time	H'cp Pos.
1. Gunn	Bowring	42-35	—	—	—
2. Coomber	"	42-40	—	—	—
3. W. Miller	St. D's	44-40	Scr.	44-40	7
4. A. Brown	"	44-42	-10	44-32	6
5. C. Williamson	"	44-44	-20	44-24	4
6. T. Gaygan	"	44-58	1-00	43-58	3
7. Howse	Bowring	46-22	—	—	—
8. A. Bradley	St. D's	48-20	3-50	44-30	5
9. L. Dennis	"	48-54	3-55	44-59	8
10. C. Stafford	"	49-53	6-35	43-18	1
11. D. Fleisig	"	50-05	6-10	43-55	2
12. S. Tutton	"	50-11	3-15	46-56	9
13. Sykes	Bowring	50-40	—	—	—
14. Johnston	"	51-03	—	—	—
15. Mimms	"	52-24	—	—	—
16. Bailey	"	53-42	—	—	—
17. Hamm	"	55-05	—	—	—
18. Jenner	"	58-21	—	—	—
19. Croucher	"	58-21	—	—	—
20. Palmer, W.	"	59-02	—	—	—
21. Palmer, R.	"	59-05	—	—	—

Match Result:

St. Dunstan's 68 points.

Bowring A.C. 103 points.

Handicapper and Timekeeper: W. J. Harris.

Indoor Section.—June was again another quiet month for the Darts team. The only match played was away against our friends of the Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind, which resulted in a win for our hosts. Although only a small number of members made the journey they all enjoyed a happy evening.

By the time these notes appear in the REVIEW the club will be closing for the annual August recess, so we trust all members will have a most enjoyable holiday.

W. BISHOP.

Aids for the Partially Sighted

A joint committee of the National Institute for the Blind and the London County Council have been carrying out research into optical aids for the partially sighted and their report has just been published.

Search for a good magnifying lens capable of covering an entire printed page has resulted in the production of special nose binoculars to fit over the glasses and stay on the face, and in various types of desk lenses.

Another new invention is the American megascope about the size of a small television set, which magnifies the pages of a book and projects them on to a screen. Experiments are also being made into the projection for the individual, as well as the class, of printed material by means of micro-films, a single film containing one hundred pages of a book.

Grandfathers

E. Beckham, of British Columbia; F. Fishwick, of St. Helens; F. Berisford, of Baldwin's Gate, near Newcastle.

Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Bolton, of Bexley Heath, July 6th (which was also Mrs. Bolton's birthday).

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. P. Holmes, of Woburn, Bletchley, on June 30th.

★ ★ ★

Congratulations to the above St. Dunstaners upon their anniversaries. We hear also that S. Doell, of Henfield, who has recently come to us, celebrated his 43rd wedding anniversary on June 30th. Good luck, Mr. and Mrs. Doell.

Transfer of Pensions Ministry

In the House of Commons on June 30th, the motion was debated by which the Ministry of Pensions will lose its separate identity and will be merged with other Ministries.

Sir Ian Fraser strongly opposed the merger and pleaded with the Government to change its mind. Sir Ian said: "I do not doubt for one moment that when the Prime Minister said he believed that these new proposals would not abate in any way the care that it was intended to give to ex-servicemen, and would not worsen their position, he believed that to be so. But we do not agree. Old soldiers have a way of speaking bluntly and we have called every Minister of Pensions in turn for over thirty years by every conceivable name, but we have never called him redundant."

Sir Ian hoped that the proposal would not go forward. It lessened the status of ex-servicemen in the community by taking away something of their separate feeling and pride. Their own advocate within the Government circle was to be replaced by one who was trammelled by responsibility for vast numbers of other people who were not ex-service people.

He would vote against the motion. His vote would not be a vote for the Opposition. No Government since the war had done what the ex-servicemen had asked them. They had all evaded the issue of raising basic pension rates to a proper level to match the currency.

Despite the Opposition and Sir Ian's appeal, the motion to bring the merging of the Ministries into effect was carried by 226 votes to 212, Government majority, 14.

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The merging of the Ministries was also discussed in the House of Lords on July 2nd. Earl Jowitt said that rightly or wrongly, ex-servicemen were disturbed at what was being done and he thought the change should have been postponed for another five or perhaps ten years.

Lord Carew said that the right method had not been used to save a comparatively small sum, in ways which must reduce the confidence of the ex-serviceman in the fact that he was going to get a square deal.

Birmingham Sports Club

The June Coronation meeting of the Club took the form of an outing to Stratford-on-Avon on the 21st of the month. Two misfortunes have to be recorded. The first was that our Secretary, Miss Fairhead, had met with a severe accident which left her with concussion. Her absence was a source of great regret to us all, but it is pleasing to hear that she is now recovering satisfactorily.

The second—the weather, which was dull and threatening.

As we could remedy neither, we had to enjoy our outing in spite of these disappointments.

The coaches, again kindly provided by Mr. Thomas, of the Alexandra Musical Society, picked up all at convenient spots and landed the party of sixty without incident at Stratford in time to enjoy a river trip in the boats of our friend, Mr. Rose. In view of the weather, on leaving the boats we strolled off to tea, which had been prepared by the ladies of Stratford British Legion at their Headquarters in Bull Street. We arrived just before the rain started, and we found a most delightful meal prepared. Everyone enjoyed the feast of ham, salad, and trifle, and the ices which followed. Our friends of the British Legion put their premises at our disposal, and games for the children of all ages, and chats with old companions passed a grand evening until we left for home at 7.30.

All arrived safely back after a very successful trip and with a deep sense of gratitude to all who had helped to make our excursion possible and so pleasant.

Birmingham Swimming Gala

The Birmingham Swimming Gala will be held on Saturday, September 19th. The notice cancelling this event was an error. Please send in your names to Miss Fairhead, 45 Anderton Park Road, Moseley, Birmingham, before August 30th.

AVIS SPURWAY.

National Laying Test

16th Month ended 7th June.

1. W. Alan Smith	...	1033
2. Philip Bagwell	...	1009
3. W. Webb	...	823
4. Percy Holmes	...	768
5. T. D. Gregory	...	709
6. G. C. Jackson	...	576

Average per bird to date 147.80.

Letters to the Editor

The Brighton Walks

DEAR EDITOR,

May I correct a wrong statement in the article dealing with the Brighton Walks last month.

Our last Brighton Walk was in 1926 and not 1925 as stated, and I had the good fortune to win the last three and so made the Challenge Cup my own property. Williamson's performance in breaking the record is indeed excellent and I convey my heartiest congratulations to him and also to Archie Brown on his gallant effort. Well done all three.

Maidenhead.

JOCK INGRAM.

(We are very glad indeed to print this correction and apologise to Jock for the error).

Reading of Talking Books

DEAR EDITOR,

I am more than pleased with the majority of the readers. I am not so pleased with the reader who is ever mindful for the correct technique, such as lowering or making the voice higher, or the reader who adopts an affected mannerism of superiority. I prefer the reader who studies what the author has expressed in his book, then reads it as he naturally would and forgets all else. That is why I should not like to listen to a book read out as a B.B.C. announcer would read a News Bulletin. Those people who read aloud and put an understanding intonation into their voices are gifted, and I think that there are not so many of them. (By this I don't mean to say that most people who read aloud don't understand what they read).

I wish to express my grateful thanks to the readers of the Talking Books who have given me so many hours of pleasure. Hove.

MALCOLM JORDAN.

"Sister"

DEAR EDITOR,

May I be permitted to say "Thank you" to George Ellis for the candid and courteous manner with which he accepted the explanation concerning our traditional "Sisters."

Keep on asking questions, George, and keep on thinking you are all a little bit more progressive than we were, for in our day we also thought ourselves superior to those old sweats who held the line for

the old country until we could be trained to take their place.

Castle Cary.

A. J. RADFORD.

DEAR EDITOR,

Why all this argument about First War and Second War St. Dunstaners? Surely it is well known that the younger generation is not so good as the one which preceded it. It never was.

This was recognised by a Wren at the Lee-on-Solent Camp some years ago when, after a dance with a St. Dunstaner of the First World War who had been doing his best to impress her, she said, "Some of you old gentlemen dance even better than the young ones." See what I mean?

Brighton.

J. BOYD.

DEAR EDITOR,

In answer to Mr. Wally Thomas in the June issue of the REVIEW, I *repeat* the statement I made, having "the guts" to do so, that "I happen to have experienced some of the original happy family spirit and comradeship which anyway existed until the Second War ended." When I tell him I have not visited Ovingdean because of ill-health since then, he will realise that he has inadvertently read into my letter something which was not there. As far as he and I are concerned, he and not I knows what it is like now. Just the same, I hope!

Haywards Heath.

JACK YOUNG.

DEAR EDITOR,

Let me commend G. Ellis for a most sensible letter in the June REVIEW, and his interested thought.

I am going down to Ovingdean from the 13th—27th July and will be happy to discuss any of the points with either V.A.D.s or men. So if any 1939 man, or any V.A.D. at Ovingdean is interested, please buttonhole me in the lounge.

Brookville.

B. A. HAMILTON.

DEAR EDITOR,

In reference to St. Dunstaners calling Sisters, I did this when I went into St. Dunstan's in 1918 and shall always do the same, trained or not.

I think that it is a waste of time, print and paper to write these letters to the REVIEW. Please put something of interest to us St. Dunstaners in the REVIEW, and not such a lot of damn rubbish.

Walsall.

TOM NORTH.

Letters to the Editor—continued

DEAR EDITOR,

May I bring to the notice of your readers the very inconvenient system of telephoning St. Dunstan's has at Ovingdean.

I was spending a very pleasant week-end there recently and one afternoon, while having my usual siesta in my room, I heard the telephone bell ring. I struggled along to the end of the corridor to answer it when I was told by a very pleasant voice that Frank Braithwaite was wanted on the telephone. I replied that I was already on the telephone when the voice said "It is an external call and you must come down to the basement (four floors below) to answer it."

I was amazed that the external telephone could not be linked up with the internal system and thus prevent the necessity of groping my way downstairs, only to find on reaching the basement that the caller, having telephoned from Newcastle, could not afford any more money.

I should have thought a competent Commandant would have realised the difficulties and how important a telephone is to blind people. After all, Ovingdean is run for the men, or is it?

Guildford.

FRANK BRAITHWAITE.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was in King Edward's funeral procession from Horse Guards Parade to Paddington with the Grenadiers, and lined the route for the Coronation of George V. Leicester.

G. J. SMITH.

DEAR EDITOR,

The Guild of Cheshire Hand-Loom Weavers has been formed with the idea of encouraging a high standard of work. A panel of expert hand-weavers is available to give free advice. The first A.G.M. is hoped to be held at Chester about the end of September and we plan to include a small exhibition. To make this a success, entries are to be invited from all hand-weavers living in Cheshire, a panel of experts will select the items for the exhibition. The subscription is ten shillings annually and this includes the advisory service mentioned above, a quarterly magazine, and a news sheet from time to time. I am on the provisional Committee, representing disabled hand-weavers, and if any St. Dunstan's men and women who do weaving as a hobby are interested will they please write to me. 23 Ben Nevis Road, MAUREEN V. LEES. Birkenhead.

Fishing Trip to Newhaven

Following an open invitation from the Newhaven Deep Sea Anglers' Club, a party of nine left Ovingdean on Sunday, June 21st, for Newhaven, where we were met by the members and their wives. Thence we were escorted to the boats where the crews were waiting to welcome us.

On this fine sunny morning, led by the Commodore of the Club, we made our way down the Ouse and so out to sea; after a bit of a tossing at the harbour-mouth, it became calmer outside.

The crew of the "Successor," the boat I was aboard, prepared the fishing lines for Len Curnow and myself; then when we were about a mile offshore, and the Commodore's flag was raised, we anchored and got down to the task of angling. After a couple of minutes I felt a tug at my line, and hauling it in was excited to find a small whiting on the hook; but unfortunately this first one could not be kept, being less than the minimum length required. However, many of his bigger brothers were caught—though our hosts were disappointed that there were unusually few fish about (despite my personal efforts to feed them!).

After about five hours' fishing, the flag was lowered and we all made our way back to harbour, where we were given a royal welcome and a sumptuous tea including a special home-made cake, iced and be-cherried.

Meanwhile our catches had to be weighed, and a handsome pewter tankard was presented as first prize. Then we were all made honorary members of the Club, each being given their badge—a blue and white enamel pennant bearing the initials N.D.S.A.

Finally with genuine heartiness we sang "For they are jolly good fellows," to express our warm thanks for the Club's most friendly and perfectly organised plan for our enjoyment.

JAMES J. PADLEY.

Dark Glasses

A number of letters have been received on the subject of dark glasses, mentioned in the Chairman's Notes last month. Extracts from these will appear in the September issue.

Talking Book Library Jubilant June

There are five new books this Coronation month and it is fitting that they are all of a most readable quality. Thriller, political intrigue, family feud, pre-Napoleonic Wars and naval adventure, serve as nutshell descriptions for this batch. Kernels coming up.

"R.I.P.," by P. McDonald, reader Robert Gladwell, covers some sixteen hours of a house party and introduces some dozen characters. One or two killings rather damp the little gathering and, as usual, the most apparently sane member has a mansize bee in his inadequate bonnet. A storm fixes telephone communications and everything becomes gloriously morbid. Not too bad!

"Judgment on Deltchev," by Eric Ambler, reader Gordon Little, purports to take a camera behind the Iron Curtain and to present pictures of a political trial in Roumania around 1946. A London playwright attends the trial of Deltchev as a Special Correspondent and, being of a curious disposition, runs foul of every authority and is finally happy and lucky to get out with a whole skin and a new third act for his play. Entertainingly sickening!

"The Fortress," by Hugh Walpole, reader Robin Holmes, is the third of a series of books on the Herries, and the feud between two branches of that Cumbrian family. Rogue Herries and Judith Paris cover the family from 1700 to 1825 and this book completes more than a hundred years. Behind the family story is an amazing mass of unintentional social history. Most enjoyable if you have read the other two books, otherwise just interesting.

"The Years of Endurance," by Arthur Bryant, reader Alvar Lidell, is the first of three ten-year volumes of military and social history. 1792 to 1802 was a period of military ineptitude abroad, and at home the period during which John Moore with the Duke of York laid the foundations of the army training which was to defeat Napoleon twenty years later. I consider this the first of three absorbing books.

"Mr. Midshipman Hornblower," by C. S. Forester, reader Franklin Engelmann, is, one of the most widely known books of the last thirty years and the adventures of this modest young "snotty" have been relayed by both screen and radio. Delightful!

It is a pleasure to act guide for such a satisfactory release.

NELSON.

St. Dunstan's Club (Manchester)

The Annual General Meeting of St. Dunstan's Club (Manchester) was held on July 10th.

Election of Officers: Chairman, Mr. J. Shaw; Vice-Chairman, Mr. W. McCarthy; Sports Organiser, Mr. P. Dixon; Treasurer, Miss Hill; Secretary, Mrs. Dunphy.

The past twelve months have given us many pleasant evenings, and the Competitions for the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prizes have kept interest at its height, the prize-winners being: Dominoes: 1st, W. McCarthy; 2nd, J. Maxicundro; Darts: (S.S.): W. McCarthy, J. Gill; (T.B.): S. Heyes, A. Clarke; Cards: J. Gill, P. Dixon.

Cup for the most successful sportsman in S.S. Class was won by W. McCarthy, and in the T.B. Class by S. Heyes. The presentation was made by Mrs. Lang.

The Ladies' Section also held a series of competitions, the winners being: Dominoes: 1, Mrs. McCarthy; 2, Mrs. Russell. Darts: 1, Mrs. Gillibrand; 2, Mrs. McCarthy. Cards: 1, Mrs. Bentley; 2, Mrs. Clarke.

We have had several enjoyable outings throughout the year.

Unfortunately, the weather was not kind to us on the occasion of our Coronation Outing, which we spent at Chester.

We meet at Red Cross House, Milton Place (next to Frederick Road), Broad Street, Pendleton, every second and fourth Friday, at 6 p.m., and shall be pleased to welcome any St. Dunstaner and his wife or escort.

E. M. D.

★ ★ ★

A St. Dunstaner in the news is Leonard Arnold, at present of Wanstead, but shortly to move to Parkstone, in Dorset. His local paper, in referring to this move, pays high tribute to his work for the Wanstead-Woodford Association for the Blind, which he founded and as a delegate to the Essex County Association for the Blind. The writer adds: "One is led to enquire what is the secret of the hold he unquestionably has on the admiration and affection of so wide a circle of men and women—blind and sighted alike."

A point which the newspaper did not mention was the fact that Leonard held what is possibly a record among St. Dunstaners in industry and business—thirty-six continuous years with the same firm.

From All Quarters

St. Dunstan's physiotherapists, Archie Brown and Charles Stafford, attended the competitors in the "Sunday Dispatch" 24 hours' walking race on July 4th. Pat Reekie wrote the next day in the "Sunday Dispatch": "Archie and Charlie . . . worked sleepless for the whole 24 hours and long after the race was over. They gave their services free in return for the work British walkers have done for St. Dunstan's, which trained them."

★ ★ ★

Our youngest St. Dunstaner, Michael Oliver, demonstrated shorthand writing and tape recording (his hobby) at the 13th Public Meeting of the South Norwood St. Dunstan's Group. The principal speaker was the Rev. Stanley Oliver and those on the same platform included Lady Buckmaster, Mrs. Mabel Constanduros (who gave a delightful sketch) and the Hon. Organiser, Miss Mary Jameson, M.B.E.

★ ★ ★

Tommy Rogers, of Ovingdean, gained third place in the International competition promoted by the American Jewish Braille Review for his essay on "What Louis Braille has meant to the Blind."

★ ★ ★

T. W. Chamberlain exhibited a Vertical Stationary Steam Engine at the model engineering exhibition recently held by Reading Society of Model and Experimental Engineers. It was much admired by the visitors, and most favourably commented upon in the local paper.

★ ★ ★

Tom Daborn continues his fishing successes. On Whit-Monday he had the heaviest catch when sea-fishing for bream.

★ ★ ★

George Jolly won first prize of one guinea in a Blackpool paper's competition for suggestions as to whom should have a Coronation medal. George says, "I plonked for our wives..."

★ ★ ★

J. Perfect has been appointed Secretary of the Sunderland Archery Club. Our St. Dunstaner was mainly responsible for the formation of the Club.

★ ★ ★

Coronation prize winner—H. Smy, of Middleton, near Saxmundham, who won first prize of fifteen shillings in the Coronation festivities for the best-kept garden.

Two of our shopkeepers entered for the best shop-window display competitions during Bexley Heath Coronation celebrations. Arthur Curnow was awarded first prize and Kenneth Hedges third prize.

★ ★ ★

Yet another Coronation prizewinner for window decoration—W. W. Holmes, of Gloucester.

★ ★ ★

Telephonists who have been in the news are John Loach, of Holly Hall, who was featured in the "Stourbridge County Express" as a most popular member of the engineering firm of Hill and Smith, Ltd., Brierley Hill, and Wilfrid Evans, who has recently started a new job with Derby Employment Exchange.

★ ★ ★

A. Sterno, of Bath, won the cake for the fifth time at the Bristol Reunion. He wants to know if this is a record for every other Reunion as well as Bristol.

★ ★ ★

A quarter of a column in the local paper was devoted to Charles Roach, of Darlington, and his roses. Our St. Dunstaner has been a grower for twenty years and in his garden he has about sixty different varieties—and knows every one, as he proved to the paper's special correspondent.

★ ★ ★

At the Annual Sports Day of the Buckinghamshire Branch of the N.I.B., Harold Mortimer, of Wendover, took four first prizes and a second, as a representative of the Aylesbury Division, which now goes forward to further triumphs (we hope) on August 12th at Wolverton. Harold writes: "I was at Ovingdean from December—Easter this year. I am sure it was that champagne air and St. Dunstan's care that has given me a new lease of life. "P.S. All Aylesbury ducks have not webbed feet!"

★ ★ ★

Alec B. Hill, of Bristol, who was the author of an interesting article on Chess in the February REVIEW, has confirmed the ability of blind chess players by winning the Bristol and Clifton Chess Club's Federation Cup for 1952-53. The Bridge Correspondent of the *Bristol Evening Post* called it "a very fine achievement against a strong and numerous entry." Our congratulations.

Reunions

Mr. D. G. Hopewell, Mr. Wills and Miss Wilson flew to Ireland on May 14th to be present at the Reunions in Cork, Dublin and Belfast. Our Irish comrades made them very welcome indeed and they found the same cheerful, friendly atmosphere there as over here. The Cork Reunion was small but very hearty. Dublin was honoured by the presence of Lord Carew, and Belfast by that of the Lord Mayor. Here a very entertaining Brains Trust was set up during the afternoon. Mr. Macauley and Miss Boyd had certainly been very busy organising such a successful series of Reunions.

The St. Dunstaners who poured into Bedford on June 11th for their Reunion at the Dujohn, got wet for the second year running. Nevertheless their spirits were not noticeably affected and Lady Fraser received an enthusiastic welcome when she arrived unexpectedly during the afternoon. Mr. D. G. Hopewell presided and everyone was pleased to see Mrs. Askew again, together with several ex-members of the Staff, including Mr. Ottaway, Mr. Lale, Mr. Panton, Miss Lloyd and Miss Hensley, who had assisted Miss Hester Pease with the organising.

Mr. Hopewell again presided at Cardiff on June 13th, and a good old sea breeze swirled around the room as Captain J. M. Rees proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of St. Dunstaners. A telegram expressing good wishes and loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen from St. Dunstaners at the Welsh Reunion was sent to Sir Ian, from whom a message of regret at not being there was read at lunch. Miss Davies had arranged a wonderful afternoon of entertainment by artists from the B.B.C.'s Western Region, who were given a great reception; after tea, community singing went on well into the evening. It was a delightful departure from the conventional Reunion.

Bristol's Avon Gorge echoed and re-echoed with the cheers of the St. Dunstaners enjoying their Reunion in the Ball Room of the Spa Hotel on 20th June, after Sir Ian's speech at lunch. Afterwards they sang "For he's a jolly good fellow" with great gusto. Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were unfortunately obliged to leave

early to keep an appointment in London, but nevertheless they were able to meet a large number of men before lunch.

The men of Devon and Cornwall gathered in the broiling sun at the Duke of Cornwall Hotel in Plymouth on June 25th, where they were greeted by the Rev. Darrell Bunt, another member of St. Dunstan's Council, who presided at the Reunion. After lunch, Mr. J. H. V. Davis sang some popular songs.

St. Dunstaners assembled at the Grand Hotel, Bournemouth, on June 27th, found the gardens much more pleasant than the stuffy ballroom and spent most of the afternoon in the cool shade of the trees. Mr. D. G. Hopewell again presided at this very jolly meeting, which was so well organised by Miss Webster. During the afternoon a party of St. Dunstaners resident in the area arrived by coach from Miss Oliphant's camp and were entertained to tea. Everyone agreed it had been a grand meeting.

The Nottingham meeting on July 15th was a particularly friendly one. Mr. D. G. Hopewell presided; Lady Fraser was there, and the other guests included Bishop Weller and Mr. Parker, Managing Director of the Raleigh Works. The oldest St. Dunstaner present was F. W. Wain, of Derby, and there was a special cheer—and a lovely bouquet—for him and Mrs. Wain, because they celebrate their Diamond Wedding (sixty years) very soon.

Lady Fraser, who received a rousing welcome, said: "I am sorry my husband cannot be here to-day. He is attending a Ministry of Pensions committee where they are discussing the merger, and I am sure you will agree that it is right that he should be there." (Hear, hear). "He asked me to tell you that he voted against the merger because he did not like it, but also because he thought neither this Government nor the previous Governments had done what he thought right about bringing the basic rate into line with present-day costs. Now that the merger battle is over, he thinks all ex-service men's societies should co-operate with and make friends with the new Minister and the new Ministry, so that they might do the best they can for disabled ex-servicemen. They would, however, continue vigorous representations on the war pensions issue."

Ovingdean Notes

We are not yet half-way through July, but what a variety of entertainment has been available for St. Dunstaners holidaying here at Brighton with us.

The Brighton & Hove and Southdown Bus Companies' Annual Summer Outing took place on Wednesday, 8th July and was, as has been the case for so many years in the past, thoroughly enjoyed by men from Ovingdean and West House as well as local St. Dunstaners. Our good friends of the Bus Companies are always such hospitable hosts and at Midhurst there is always such a grand welcome year after year that it is little wonder the event remains so popular with St. Dunstaners.

The other hardy annual is due to be held on July 15th and is, of course, the Summer Outing provided by the Grocers' Association. This year Hastings will be the meeting place for the many St. Dunstaners who enjoy the hospitality of the Association and, we are told, there will be a record number present.

Sports Day saw a fairly large crowd of visitors at Ovingdean again, but the number of entrants for the events was not as good as in previous years. Our congratulations to R. BEALES who this year won the Individual Athletic Trophy; and to the others who so sportingly entered for so many of the events.

Other results were:—

THROWING THE CRICKET BALL:—

1, Stuart Craig; 2, Dennis Bingham; 3, A. Hobson.

70 YDS. TOTALLY BLIND:—

1, S. Craig; 2, D. Bingham; 3, C. Stafford.

70 YDS. SEMI-SIGHTED:—

1, J. Fulling; 2, J. Shirlaw; 3, R. Armstrong.

EGG & SPOON (BLINDED LADIES):—

1, Blodwyn Simon; 2, Dorothy Phillippo; 3, Elsie Aldred.

THROWING THE DISCUS:—

1, R. Mendham; 2, N. Daniels; 3, R. Beales.

SACK RACE:—

1, S. Craig; 2, N. Daniels; 3, A. Hobson.

STANDING LONG JUMP:—

1, R. Beales; 2, J. Fulling; 3, N. Daniels.

HUMAN WHEELBARROW RACE:—

R. Mendham.

TANDEM CYCLE TORTOISE RACE:—

1, S. Craig; 2, C. Fisher; 3, R. Beales.

PUTTING THE WEIGHT:—

1, R. Beales; 2, N. Daniels; 3, J. Fulling.

THROWING THE MEDICINE BALL:—

1, N. Daniels; 2, J. Fulling; 3, R. Beales.

70 YDS. TOTALLY BLIND (Under 40):—

1, C. Fisher; 2, J. Walton.

BLIND VETERANS' RACE (Over 40):—

1, A. Martin.

THREE-LEGGED RACE:—

1, N. Daniels; 2, A. Hobson; 3, R. Mendham.

We were very pleased that once again Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were able to be with us for Sports Day and after the events prizes were presented by Sir Ian. Other guests included the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton, Miss Spenser Wilkinson from the Southern Regional Association for the Blind, Miss Shrimpton, the Secretary of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, all of whom were making their first visit to a St. Dunstan's Sports Day, and two old friends, Air Commodore G. Bentley Dacre and Mrs. Dacre.

Success

Our very sincere congratulations to J. Walbrugh, of South Africa, one of our trainees, who has passed the Social Science Certificate examination at London University. John is to become a Welfare Officer.

Australian News

P. Norris, of Nedlands, West Australia, writes:

"1952 was a bad year for my wife and self. My wife had a bad fall and fractured her left wrist in three places. Believe me, we had lots of fun and games during the period in plaster, but we can now smile and look back on this part of the venture.

I, with Mr. Bill James, a 1914-18 war-blinded bloke from here, have been selected to represent West Australia at the Australian War Blinded Congress to be held in Brisbane. Our wives are going along with us to keep us out of mischief.

Our Aussie cricketers are over your way and I am tipping them to lose the Ashes this time.

Met a Mr. and Mrs. Jordan, from Essex, a St. Dunstaner visiting the Sunny West. He was guest at one of our socials last Thursday night. Both seemed to be enjoying themselves and are in the pink.

P.S. Am still carrying out honorary welfare work for the blind per medium of radio with good results. The Braille Society and the War-Blinded held a street appeal on March 27th, resulting in over £3,000 between two of us. Not so bad an effort, what say you?" PERCY NORRIS.

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages

On June 13th, Remorna Noon, Manchester, to Timothy Shaw.

On June 20th, George Arthur Rodgers, Barrow-in-Furness, to Miss Thelma Jones.

Peggy Christina Macfarlane, Ilford, on June 20th, to Dennis Reeve, of Wanstead.

On July 11th, Betty Caple, Cardiff, to Kenneth Steadman.

On June 6th, Joan Sainty, Woodford Bridge, to Stanley Prior.

In June, Geoffrey Brown, Burton-on-Trent, to Miss Muriel Adams.

Tale of Two Fusiliers

From the Coronation Number of "The Sprig of Shillelagh," journal of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers:

"One day in the summer of 1926, 'Nobby' Clarke, of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, was walking along Victoria Street, London, to his desk at the War Office. His head was full of worries. In front of him he saw a blind man feeling his way with a stick. 'Nobby' took his arm, helped him over a crossing, and the two began to talk.

"Here was a totally blind man, living eight miles out of London, travelling daily in to the city to work. A former Royal Scots Fusilier, he had been blinded in the trenches in 1918, when he was 18. Now he was married with a daughter whom he had never seen.

"'What have I to worry about?' thought Nobby.

"The result was that almost every working day for 26 years the one Fusilier met the other Fusilier at Victoria Station and guided him to his place of work, and back again in the evening.

"Now at the age of 67 Major William Clarke, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, is retiring from the Army, after 18 years' regimental soldiering and an unbroken 30 years at the War Office. His blind friend, Mr. Peter Martin, who is telephone operator at the Imperial Defence College, will continue to make his way to work, but the two will no longer rendezvous at 8.30 a.m. at Victoria. They will still meet as friends, however, notably at the sessions of the Inniskilling Regimental Association, where Mr. Martin has come to regard himself as an old Inniskilling.

"Major Clarke has met many of the lads of St. Dunstan's."

(We are indebted to Mrs. W. Owen, of Hassocks, who kindly sent us the regimental magazine from which this extract was taken. It was originally published in "SOLDIER.")

Retrospect

One Day in June, 1937

I walked along a country road, the sun did brightly shine,
My step was light, so was my heart on that bright day in June.
The larks soared high above the fields, their sweet song gaily trilling,
It lifts my mind above the earth with all its cares and pain
To where the wide horizons grow and visions new are born.
I walked on 'long a winding lane and came to woodland glade,
I entered, then I paused again as awe stole over me,
It was, it seemed, a sacred grove where God and man did meet.
At first the trees were widely spaced and let some sunshine through
So light and shade did alternate as does through most of life.
Then farther on a wider space with ne'er a tree to shade,
'Twas like the day we fell in love, or maybe, wedding day,
Or other day when fortune smiled as we trod life's highway,
But just beyond a chestnut grove had grown so dense, so dark
That ne'er a streak of light was seen to penetrate its gloom.
'Twas like the loss of one held dear, or maybe sight of eye
Or other dire calamity that darkens life's pathway.
I stepped into the darkness then, and in a space of time
Was out upon the other side in sunlight once again,
I walked home with a firmer step, with confidence more strong
With peaceful calm serenity I was atop the world,
The darkness that confronts us, however dark it seems,
May be the gate that leads into a larger richer sphere.
Wingham, Canterbury. W. C. HILLS.

“ In Memory ”

Private Alfred Ernest Chambers, *1st Essex Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. E. Chambers, of Ramsgate, at the age of sixty-three. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's benefits in April, 1927, although he had been discharged from the Service in November, 1915. He trained in basket-making and netting.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades was sent for the funeral. He leaves a grown-up son, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Corporal John May, *Royal Army Service Corps*

With deep regret we have to record the death of J. May, of Drogheda, Eire.

He served with his regiment from August, 1916, until March, 1919, but it was not until 1951 that he came to us; he was then an elderly man and practically confined to bed. He had been almost continually ill since he came under our care, but his death was nevertheless rather unexpected. He died at his home on June 3rd.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and children.

Private Ernest Taylor, *Machine Gun Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of E. Taylor, of Blackpool, who served during the First World War, but did not come to us until 1948. A delayed action mustard gas case, he had been ill for a very long time, and he was only able to do very light work.

He had spent a recent holiday at Ovingdean, but was ill then. He returned to his home and he died there on June 7th.

Sir Ian's wreath of poppies was among the flowers at the funeral, which was attended by the following St. Dunstaners and their wives, or escorts—Messrs. W. Birchall, A. Bright, W. H. Collins, W. Joyce, G. Moore, J. McAndrews and S. Smith.

Private Harry Jones, *Labour Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Harry Jones, a permanent resident at West House, Brighton. He was within a few days of his seventieth birthday.

He received his discharge from the Army in October, 1918, and came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1924, where he trained in mat-making and boot-repairing. He continued with this work until 1935, when he was forced to give up owing to ill-health. On the death of Mrs. Jones last year, he was admitted to West House, where he died on June 30th.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his relatives.

Thomas Tomkins, *5th Battalion 1st Australian Imperial Forces*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of an Australian St. Dunstan, T. Tomkins, of Victoria.

He was blinded in the First World War but did not come to St. Dunstan's for training and we had kept in touch through the Blinded Soldiers' Association of Victoria. He had been ill for a long time and he died at Heidelberg Military Hospital on February 21st.

Our very sincere sympathy goes out to Mrs. Tomkins.

Births

BRIDGES.—On June 28th, at Kuala Lumpur, to Helen Elizabeth (*nee* Mackenzie), the wife of D. Ronald Bridges, a son.

COOKSON.—On June 12th, to the wife of Ernie Cookson, of Barnsbury, a son—Robert William.

FITZPATRICK.—On June 29th, to the wife of B. Fitzpatrick, of Barrow-in-Furness, a daughter—June.

FOSTER.—On June 6th, to the wife of E. Foster, of Barnsley, a daughter.

LYNCH.—On July 3rd, to the wife of J. Lynch, of Horchurch, a daughter—Jeanette Yvonne.

POWNALL.—On June 25th, to the wife of H. J. Pownall, of Caterham, a daughter—Kathleen Teresa.

WHYTE.—On June 15th, to the wife of F. Whyte, of Motherwell, Scotland, a son—Eamonn.

Death

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:

APPLEBY.—To P. Appleby, of Luton, whose mother died on June 27th at the age of 92.

Personal

By the time the REVIEW appears, Miss B. Vaughan-Davies's new address will be Flat 8, Dunes House, Fairhaven Road, St. Annes-on-Sea, Lancs.

★ ★ ★

Sergeant Alan Nichols thanks all those friends who have written congratulating him upon his award of the Coronation Medal.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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POST-BRITAIN
PAID 1/4

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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LIFE BEGINS AT FIFTY

(Contributed)

I WAS 52 when, finally, I lost my sight and joined St. Dunstan's. The effect of losing one's sight in middle life (as so many who suffered from mustard gas are now doing) is so different from losing it between the ages of 20 and 30 that I thought my feelings might be of interest. It is often a comfort to know that other people have been through similar difficulties. The realisation that one has lost one's sight does not come suddenly but slowly, as the trouble in one's eyes becomes more and more severe. Maybe this makes it easier to bear, although I sometimes think the first and real shock came to me in 1917 when, in hospital in Rouen, I realised I could no longer see. However, following that I enjoyed 20 years of good sight and 10 years of indifferent sight, during which time my eyes were giving increasing trouble. In this period when my sight was gradually going, I hoped that as operation followed operation the next would be successful and save my sight, so that really the realisation came on me quite slowly, but as it was accompanied by the end of pain and operations, it was probably a relief in itself.

This slow approach to blindness very often, unfortunately, has the effect of making us hesitate to take the plunge and get ready for the new life as quickly as possible; we go on hoping for the old life whilst time is slipping by and we are losing much that is worth while. There is, perhaps, not that sense of urgency over having to earn a living at 50 that there is at 20; we have probably brought up our family and, at least, have a trade or profession in our grasp. And this is one of the most important points. If it is at all possible, I believe we ought to try and continue to do the work and live in the place that we know. It is so much easier to do a job that you have done for 30 years than learn a new one. I was fortunate in this respect and was able to continue with part of the work that I had always done, and among familiar surroundings. Nevertheless, I must confess that my first inclination was to go away from all that I had known. There is that feeling, which I have met with in other people too, that everything connected with the old life is finished, and the sooner one gets away from it the better. Some kindly advice from Sir Ian brought me back to try at my old job, and it is surprising how, if it is taken very gradually—and it is important to take things gradually at our age—how much more useful to the world we can be in a job that we know, instead of trying to learn something new. I think that my greatest difficulty was to get other people to overcome their shyness and embarrassment in dealing with me; their embarrassment was often much greater than mine. This has now disappeared and my fellow workers treat me as one of themselves.

But, of course, everyone is not fortunate enough to be able to continue with their old job, even in a modified form, and for them St. Dunstan's training at Ovingdean will soon set them on the way to a new job. Even so, I should strongly advise trying to stay among familiar surroundings and familiar voices.

At 50 we are slower to overcome mishaps, and a fall or a crash takes longer to live down, with the result that we are more fearful and not as venturesome as our younger friends. Our fingers, too, are not quick to pick up Braille. I was told that at 52 I would not be able to learn it, but St. Dunstan's soon put that right, and it was certainly worth while. I am not very quick at Braille, and I confess that the "Radio Times" still gives me a great deal of trouble, but apart from helping me at my work and allowing me to read some books slowly, I can also correspond in our own language with friends I made at Ovingdean.

And whilst on the subject of Ovingdean, I believe more can be done there for us older men to get used to the situation than anywhere else. It is not only a training centre but a place where one can get used to the idea of blindness in very helpful surroundings, and where there are all sorts of hobbies for us to try out to see which interests us most.

When at Ovingdean—and I hope all of us either have been or will go there—don't miss the dancing class. St. Dunstan's leaves nothing to chance and immediately before every dance, which is held weekly downstairs, you are given a dancing lesson upstairs, so that you have no time to forget the steps before you begin dancing on "sister's" toes. And if, after three hours' dancing, you fall exhausted into bed at 10 o'clock, it is your feet that are aching and not your eyes, which is, at least, a change.

JOHN A. ORIEL.

Tickets for Football and Rugby Union Matches

I should be glad if any St. Dunstaner who is particularly keen to attend Football or Rugby Union matches, *e.g.*, International, Inter-Varsity, etc., could drop me a line. I have the names of certain St. Dunstaners who have been interested for a considerable period, but I have a feeling there may be others, especially among recent admissions to St. Dunstan's, who would welcome the odd ticket to a good game now and again.

I must make it clear, of course, that it is always difficult to procure more than a very limited number of tickets for the more important matches, but we are always willing to have a try and issue them as fairly as possible. This particularly applies to Cup Final tickets, for which there is always a large demand, but it would be helpful to know, *this side of Christmas*, those who would like to have their names included in the ballot.

C. D. WILLS,
Welfare Superintendent.

49 Abbey Road

St. Dunstaners who have stayed at the London Hostel will regret to learn that Mrs. Higgs has resigned and will be leaving at the end of September.

Mrs. E. Thorpe has been appointed in her place and will be in charge of the Hostel from the beginning of October.

Alamein Reunion

We hope that once again we shall receive a small allocation of tickets for the El Alamein Reunion, usually held in London in October.

During the past few years we have built up a list of those who fought at Alamein and are interested in attending these Reunions. It may be, however, there are others who have not brought the matter to our notice for various reasons, and I should be very pleased to receive their names now, so that we can consider them when tickets are being allocated.

C. D. WILLS,
Welfare Superintendent.

Coronation Honours

E. Miller, of Leamington Spa, who is a handless St. Dunstaner and is a guide at Warwick Castle, has received the Coronation Medal.

★ ★ ★

Australian blinded soldiers in particular will have learned with much pleasure of honours bestowed upon two who have given good service to their cause. Mr. G. W. F. Holland, Federal President of the Returned Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia, received a Knighthood, and Mr. O. H. Ibels, Honorary Secretary of the New South Wales Blinded Soldiers' Association almost from its inception, received the O.B.E. "for services in the interests of blinded Servicemen."

London Club Notes

Just a few lines about the London Club, Where the attendance at Games has been very good.

With Whist, Bridge, Dominoes, Darts as well, Please join our ranks and our numbers swell.

The Club is well furnished, refreshments are cheap,

There's even a carpet to guide your stray feet.

Mr. Willis, our Steward, always gives satisfaction,

And if you prefer Walking, contact chairman, P. Ashton.

There's one section not mentioned—if you want an audition

Come along any Monday and join the Magicians

When the Club reopens, after August recess. May I wish you all luck, and the Club great success.

So come to the Club when'er you are able
And here to assist you is our games table.
Monday magicians do their mystic stuff,
Tuesday is Whist where you may chance to ruff,

Thursday it's Dominoes—knock if you can't go,

Friday it's Bridge—lessons given by a pro,
Saturday afternoons, again Bridge players thrive,

And on Saturday evenings, another Whist Drive,

And now to conclude this little rhyme of mine,

All games start at 7.30 and finish at nine.

W. BISHOP.

Outdoor Section

Provisional List of Walks, 1953-4

2 mile Handicap, Highgate	Sept. 26
5 mile Handicap, Regent's Park	Oct. 17
6 mile Handicap, Regent's Park	Nov. 21
7 mile Handicap, Regent's Park	Dec. 19
10 mile Handicap, Regent's Park	Jan. 27
12 mile Handicap, Regent's Park	Feb. 20
15 mile Handicap, Surrey Walking Club	Mar. 27
7 mile Championship, Regent's Park	May 1

Bridge

St. Dunstan's Bridge Congress takes place at Ovingdean from November 20th to the 22nd, play beginning on the Saturday. Will anyone interested and who has not yet notified Drummer Downs at 1 South Audley Street, do so immediately.

Tommy Rogers Retires

One of the best known members of the Ovingdean staff retired at the end of last term. Tommy Rogers, who was himself blinded at Amiens in 1918, has been on St. Dunstan's staff since June, 1927. As Typing Instructor at Church Stretton and at Ovingdean, he will be known to all trainees of the 1939-45 war, and to very many of the 1914-1918 war as well.

Tommy will be greatly missed in his official capacity and he will be missed also when it comes to the end of term concerts which he has so often and so ably compered. The Darts Team, too, is going to feel the loss of one of its keenest members.

The good wishes of all St. Dunstaners and members of the staff will go with Tommy.

Two Diamond Weddings!

Our hearty congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Wain, of Derby, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on August 12th, and to Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Marsden, of Blackburn, whose anniversary was on September 2nd. May the future hold much happiness for them.

Mr. and Mrs. Wain celebrated the great occasion with a family party at their home. Mrs. Wain wrote: "Our room was like a garden of flowers; all day through we were opening the door for fresh memories."

Mr. and Mrs. Marsden entertained twenty-nine members of their family at the Conservative Club. The only guest outside the family was Miss G. Doel, Welfare Visitor, who represented St. Dunstan's. The youngest member of the family present was nine months old; the host 83.

Travel Agent

St. Dunstaners and their friends are reminded of the facilities offered by our St. Dunstaner, John Proctor, through his Travel Agency. John is an agent for the main steamship lines and airlines, and for British Railways. Continental tours can be arranged and advice given. Enquiries should be made to John Proctor, Travel Agent, Marine Drive, Rottingdean (Telephone: Rottingdean 3448).

Personal

On leaving the London district, may I thank Miss Ibbetson, Mr. Willis, and all the friends my wife and I have made, and whose company we have so much enjoyed.

HAROLD MITCHELL, Kingston.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I am surprised at a letter in the REVIEW *re* Telephones at Ovingdean. I think the passing of unfavourable comments or innuendoes about a member of the staff is to be deplored.

It is possible to connect internal house telephones to the G.P.O. service, but at an exceedingly high cost, with a very long wait prior to connection, and finally with little efficiency.

For a long distance call there is the "Personal call"; for a small initial charge the caller is not charged for time until the other party is actually speaking. It is also a sound idea for one to send a telegram advising that a call is being made at a certain time.

I do not think I am alone when I say there is a very good service at Ovingdean, and that the staff do more than their duty on many occasions, from highest to the lowest.

Of course, there could be a Tannoy (loud-speaker) system installed, and then we could all hear and "enjoy" the fact that someone wanted to speak to someone else, and all have our siestas spoiled.

How many middle-class hotels have 'phones dotted about *ad lib.*? I should advise the complainant to take a meal at the Grand and hear the bellhops trotting round, calling room numbers for their owners to take a call at the call boxes.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN MUDGE.

Tottenham, N.17.

DEAR EDITOR,

I think it's unfair and mean for any St. Dunstan's man to attack a member of the staff through the medium of the REVIEW. Surely Headquarters is the proper place for complaints.

Allow me to point out, as far as telephones are concerned, the Post Office will not allow their external system to be linked up with any internal 'phone.

They (the Post Office) have an external-internal system which is very expensive to install, and even that will not guarantee that incoming calls will reach the fourth floor unless there is an operator on duty.

There are, however, two alternatives—reverse the charge, the body receiving the call paying, or the caller should pass a personal call.

I still think St. Dunstan's is run for the majority of the men, though some would have it for the few. Yours sincerely,
Ilford.

JOCK MACFARLANE, B.E.M.

DEAR EDITOR,

In the July issue of the REVIEW, Jack Young states that because of ill-health, he has not been able to visit Ovingdean since the end of the Second World War. I was not aware of Jack's circumstances when I wrote my letter in the June issue of the REVIEW. This being so, I tender my sincere apologies to Jack and wish him all the best for the future.

Yours sincerely,

WALLY THOMAS.

Southampton.

DEAR EDITOR,

Nowadays when I visit Ovingdean I travel light and therefore do not take any shoe-cleaning outfit with me but rely on the shoe-cleaning appliances in the boot-room. In the old days the brushes were marked with round brass-headed nails and were marked as follows: For black shoes the dirt brush was marked 1; 2 was the blacking brush and 3 the polisher. For brown shoes the dirt brush was marked 4; 5 was the brush to put on the polish whilst 6 was the polisher.

I suggest that these brushes should be marked this way again.

It will be interesting to learn how the trainees at Ovingdean ever distinguished one brush from another because—and here I lead with my chin—I do not think the shoe brushes have ever been marked at Ovingdean. Constructive criticism? I think so.

Yours,

Thetford.

B. A. HAMILTON.

Ben's letter was shown to Commandant at Ovingdean, who replied as follows:

DEAR MR. HAMILTON,

The REVIEW Editor has kindly let me see your suggestion for boot brushes before the REVIEW goes into print.

As you say, in the old days the brushes were marked with round-headed nails, and I too think this is by far the best method. Brushes at Ovingdean were so marked until the building was entirely used for training; then, and since then, a different system has been in operation. This is that brushes for black shoes are kept on the right bench of the boot-room and brushes for brown shoes are on the left. This system appears to have been indicated to the men in each dormitory on arrival.

When West House reopened after alteration, I had the brushes marked as you have suggested, and I think it would be a good idea if our next set of brushes, which are due at any time now, are similarly marked at Ovingdean.

Constructive criticism? I think so too.

Yours sincerely,

L. FAWCETT,

Commandant.

Points from Other Letters

Appropos of Sir Ian's recent remarks on the importance of braille, Sergeant Alan Nichols reminds us that he himself passed his braille test and even although it was never likely to be of use to him personally, he was lecturing on it in 1917. He adds: "We old ones grabbed at anything that was likely to provide us with healthy mental and physical recreation." In February, 1918, he wrote these lines in the REVIEW.

Six little dots, this is the key

To the literary world of those who can't see.

These six little dots, though they don't seem much

Enable the blind to see by their touch.

Reading and writing, to those who can't see

Mean such a lot, you all must agree.

This system of signs is a great consolation

And opens the way to the blind's education.

A page of these dots forms fantastic designs

Hindustani to those unlearned in these signs.

The learning of which turns the students pale

But once it is learned they thank Louis Braille.

* * *

George Fallowfield also has advice for the younger ones. He says, "The planning of one's leisure is certainly important and there is more in it than meets the eye, especially if it is a long term plan. All our deaf men have been good gardeners and here is a hobby that cannot be hurried. With a long term plan one has always plenty to think about and when one meets an old pal, plenty to talk about, and, if you like, plenty to write about."

* * *

From the DAILY MAIL, September 8th.

"The chatter of 199 swimmers and the noise of the motor-boats were the only guides blind swimmer Mr. Vivian Kennard, 29, of St. Leonards, Sussex, had in a 700 yard event from Castle Corner to the Island Bathing Pools at Guernsey yesterday. He was among the first to finish."

An Ambition Realised

When the Rev. G. L. Treglown, M.B.E., became Minister of the Wesley Methodist Church at Newbridge, Monmouthshire, in 1948, the church was only a temporary building. There had been a Building Fund Committee but years of depression in this mining area had made a new Church only a distant dream. Mr. Treglown determined otherwise. For five years he has worked towards the fulfilment of his ambition.

His enthusiasm has inspired others, and on September 5th the new Wesley Methodist Church of Newbridge was opened and consecrated. In the Souvenir which was printed on the occasion appear the following words:

"With the coming of the Rev. Geoffrey Treglown in 1948 the task of raising the large sum necessary was seriously faced. It is due to Mr. Treglown, more than to any other, perhaps, that the vision of the earliest years has become the fact of the present. With unconquerable faith, with immense courage and with persistent and unflagging effort, he has both worked himself and inspired others by his example and sacrifice. For him there has been no difficulty that could not be overcome."

Unsolicited

This is the tale of Ernie the bold,
Who went for a walk when the wind was cold,

His hat it was new, and he feared to lose it,
(He'd taken an hour and half to choose it!)
So taking it off, to avoid mishap,
He carried it clutched in his hand, poor chap.
The fresh breeze whistled through Ernie's curls

As he trotted along, saying "Catch me, girls!"

Thus, hat in hand, he approached the shops,
A bus queue waiting at one of the stops
Nudged each other, "Just look at that
Poor man collecting—you see his hat?"
And soon his hat, with its stylish lining,
Was filled with sixpences, gaily shining.

"My word!" said Ernie, "now who'd have thought it?"

"I little knew when I went and bought it
That this good hat could produce such riches!"

And he stuffed the money into his breeches.

E. FEARN.

Liverpool Club Notes

The qualities of faultless organisation were once again demonstrated by our Secretary on Saturday, September 5th, when we, the premier Club of St. Dunstan's, enjoyed a grand day out in Morecambe. Tom Milner even had the sunshine laid on for us and we would have been a forlorn crowd had we missed the opportunity of adding our own enjoyment to the pleasures of two excellent meals and a fine warm day. Thirty-four of us met in the city centre, and from the moment of pulling out from Liverpool till we started our southward journey homewards each and every one of the company made the most of this belated Coronation celebration. It was a case of quiet conversation in the little groups who formed themselves until an atmosphere of restrained enjoyment was jolted and lifted riotously up to a level of fun-and-games by the incorrigible Messrs. Daly and Brougham. Before resuming the last lap of the trip home, Joe and Tom started a rather discordant but happy ball rolling by encouraging us to join them in a song or two. We needed no second bidding and we heard several vocal solos, notably a surprise rendering from our esteemed Chairman, J. Owen. Truly a most successful day and the whole Club are looking forward to a repetition as soon as possible.

"FRISBY."

The Manchester Club

The sympathy of the members of the Club, and of the many friends of the late John Percy Dixon, of Bolton, goes out to Mrs. Dixon and family in their grievous loss. Percy Dixon, as we always knew him, was a man of genial disposition and of quiet but strong character. Whatever he undertook to do he did with determination and out of kindness.

He was a regular attender at the Club and took a prominent part in all the activities, always being ready to lend a hand where needed. Recently he had been appointed Games Organiser at the Club and it is here that he will be missed very much. His absence will also be felt because of the cheerful friendliness which he always displayed to his fellow St. Dunstaners who, because of these qualities, always respected him.

J. SHAW,
Club Chairman.

From the Chairman's Postbag

From time to time Sir Ian receives letters in which people offer an eye to a blind person, or enquire about this interesting subject. The following is an answer the Chairman has sent to one of his correspondents:—

"The Editor of the British Legion Journal has passed your letter to me, and it moved me very much to read it and to realise the sacrifice you are offering to make.

However, I am sorry to tell you that medical science has not reached the stage at which an operation to transfer an eye from one human being to another has been found possible. Nor, indeed, do the most eminent scientists consider such an operation is practicable. The reason is that thousands of little fibres join the retina to the brain through the optic nerve, and it is considered quite impossible to join each one of these together so that they would remain separate cell formations. What would happen would be that if the eye was transplanted, and if it lived, the join would become a piece of scar tissue which, though perfectly healthy, would not function.

You may have read something about the transplanting of a piece of cornea, which is the transparent covering to the eyeball. In a very limited number of cases where the main structure of the eye is healthy but the transparent film on the front has become opaque due to disease, burning or other injury, transplantation has been found possible. The cornea for this operation is normally obtained from the eye of a still-born baby or a person who has just died, and it is possible to make a will permitting a surgeon to take a cornea immediately after death. I supported a Bill in the House of Commons last year to facilitate this process."

National Laying Test

Report for the Eleventh Period of Four Weeks, July 20th to August 16th.

Pos'n.	Name	Score to date
1.	Philip Bagwell	1251
2.	W. Alan Smith	1170
3.	W. Webb	982
4.	T. D. Gregory	911
5.	P. Holmes	877
6.	George C. Jackson	671

Total to date, 6214

Average per bird to date, 177

Dark Glasses

In the June REVIEW, the Chairman invited St. Dunstaners to send him their views on the wearing of dark glasses. Below are extracts from some of the letters Sir Ian has received.

"I invariably wear dark glasses in public. My reason for doing so is to avoid embarrassment to others. On a crowded pavement it is very difficult to avoid collisions, but with dark glasses I am given a fairly wide berth; if a collision does occur, a little apology on both sides is all that is required.

"I also work in a large office with some 6,000 other people, and although I do not wear dark glasses in my own room, I invariably put them on when wandering along the corridors—for the same reason.

London, E.C.3

JOHN A. ORIEL

"As I am one who has no visible abnormality, it is useful perhaps to see why I wear dark specs. I shall skip the medical reasons for preserving a glare infested optic system from suffering large increases in light. . . . St. Dunstaners have, sooner or later, to take hazards; they can't always have someone to shepherd them from A to B. I don't say that it is a magic cloak that permits inattention and carelessness, but whereas motorists, cyclists and (worse still) women with push chairs, can never see a St. Dunstan's badge, they always, or nearly always, react promptly to dark glasses and a stick."

New Plymouth, N.Z. GEO. MERRIMAN

"I wear dark glasses for purely personal and not medical reasons. On meeting my wife she pointed out to me very tactfully that dark glasses would improve my appearance, as I possess two plastic eyes and in bright sunlight they tend to reflect, which gives an uncanny staring effect. I was not altogether convinced when told this so I made several enquiries and found that my friends all agreed with my wife. I have now been wearing dark glasses for over six years and many people do not realise I am blind until they see my badge, which is an incentive to my independence.

Guildford.

A. C. MITCHELL

"In the early days of my disability I disdained the idea of dark glasses. I realise now what a menace I must have been to the general public.

"In 1949, when I was a patient in hospital, I got myself two unpaid voluntary jobs, one in Richmond and one in London. The Medical Director was perfectly willing I should tackle the two jobs but not unless I promised to obtain and wear dark glasses—not as a fashion note, not to deepen sentimental feelings towards me, but purely to help the other person who might otherwise have bumped into me. I made a promise then to which I have adhered."

Birkenhead.

MAUREEN LEES

"I appear to be sighted although I have lost all sense of light for many years. Sometimes I used to be escorted through busy streets and numbers of passers-by used to knock me, usually the right arm; sometimes a parcel would be knocked out of my hand. My escort requested me to use a white stick or dark glasses. I was rather pleased that my appearance was that of a sighted person and I refused to take her advice. A few years later I was walking alone and a car ran into me. The driver expressed much sorrow for what he had done but I realised the accident was not his fault. After this I did wear dark glasses and found that it was less difficult for an escort to pilot me through crowds. I use dark glasses therefore to demonstrate my blindness."

Hove.

MALCOLM JORDAN

F. J. Guisley, of Menston-in-Wharfedale, tried wearing dark glasses for a similar reason but found them uncomfortable. He also makes the point that so many people wear these glasses for sun-glare nowadays that it is no material value for a blind person to wear them.

P. J. Conlin, of Brentford, gives two reasons for wearing dark glasses. He writes:

"My wound has resulted in certain discharge from the eye sockets. I am a shorthand writer and as such have of necessity to come into close contact with officers dictating shorthand. The use of dark glasses minimises the risk of the discharge being observed by persons in one's company. Furthermore, I had to have an eyelid grafted on. I have found from experience that the heat of the sun affects the graft. It becomes swollen and very tender, with resultant irritation. I find that the use of dark glasses alleviates this discomfort."

Looking Back

I read with much interest some time ago the articles in the REVIEW by some of our gallant St. Dunstaners, concerning their adventures in connection with previous Coronations, Royal funerals, etc. Alas, I have no "close-up" stories to relate about these historic events. With my regiment I had gone a little further afield, and when Queen Victoria died we were doing a little job of work out in South Africa. Actually I was in charge of six men, guarding a railway culvert at Whitbank, East Transvaal. Whitbank was of some little importance as it boasted a coal mine, and a couple of miles across the veldt on a branch line stood another coal mine, where it is alleged our gallant Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, hid while making his way to Portuguese East Africa, after escaping from captivity in Pretoria. While the preparations for the Coronation of King Edward VII were in progress we were dismantling a blockhouse line which we had occupied for some months and which extended from Nauport Nek along the course of the Mooi river to Fredrickstadt, West Transvaal. When Their Majesties King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra visited Belfast in 1903 I had the honour of being with the Guard of Honour as one of the escort to the Colour Party. In 1907, when their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales visited Glasgow, I was doing temporary duty with our 2nd Battalion, and again I had the honour of being in charge of the Colour escort.

The news that King Edward VII had passed on came to us when we were far away from the smoky atmosphere of Glasgow with its blast furnaces, foundries and clanging shipyards. It was practically in a different world, for we were in the Sudan with its blistering heat and burning sands, and again I was on guard, this time at the Sirdar's, or Governor-General's Palace, where a combined memorial service was held to His late Majesty in the picturesque gardens of the Governor's Palace. The next important Royal ceremony in which we nearly became involved took us away from the burning sands of the desert around Khartoum, where the White Nile meets the Blue, to the hot, dried-up, dusty plains of India. We went to Breilly, Central Provinces, having come down from

our permanent quarters in Raniket, nearly 6,000 feet up in the foothills. Their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary were to visit India for the historic Delhi Durbar. The regiment had been selected to form part of the military display at the Durbar and also to furnish a King's guard. The ceremony to be observed at the mounting and dismounting of the King's guard was somewhat intricate and entirely different from that laid down for infantry of the line. We had two months to prepare, and I was given the job of drilling and licking the guard into shape, which was pretty hot work. At last the great day arrived for our departure to Delhi. The regimental band and the advance party went on ahead to make ready for our arrival. Not knowing what was round the corner, the whole regiment was on its toes. But early in the morning of the day we had to entrain one of our pipers was stricken with suspected cholera. The dread news was immediately wired to Delhi. Meanwhile preparations for our departure went on apace and our baggage was stowed into the train. We were on the station detailing the men off to their various compartments, when orders were received that, owing to the grave risk of carrying the suspected plague amongst the vast concentration of troops in Delhi, the Principal Medical Officer would not accept the responsibility of our participation in the Durbar and we were to stay put where we were. What a flop and what a disappointment!

Time marched on. It was 1914 and the war had broken out. We left Lucknow, India, for the West and after a long delay in the Suez Canal we found ourselves, early in March, 1915, drawn up on a roadside several miles outside Rugby, England, where I was present with my regiment when His Majesty King George V inspected the famous 29th Division prior to the embarkation of the Division for the Middle East and Gallipoli. I will leave the Dardanelles campaign to speak for itself, for twenty-four hours on that inhospitable strip of land and I was hors-de-combat.

ROBERT MIDDLEMISS.

[This and the following article appeared in last month's *Braille Review* but had to be omitted from the printed edition.—ED.]

A Holiday in Holland

One of the minor surprises that results from getting married is the discovery of an ever-increasing number of relations! It came as rather a shock to me to find that my wife had over a score of them in Holland, and as they all seemed anxious to meet their new "uncle" we packed a suitcase, took the boat from Tilbury to Rotterdam, and finally came to rest in a suburb of Utrecht. As I cannot speak a word of Dutch, I was agreeably surprised to find that a limited amount of English is spoken, and it is quite easy to travel or go shopping in Holland. The children (who learn English at school) are anxious to try out their language on the stranger, and one often gets posers, such as "Do you say I sit in the shade, or I sit in the shadow?"

Of course, apart from visiting relations, we made some interesting expeditions to Amsterdam, Haarlem, Hilversum and Doorn. First war St. Dunstaners may remember that this is the place where the ex-Kaiser spent his exile after the '14-18 war. The house and estate is now a museum, but it has some very interesting exhibits that are well worth seeing. I cannot begin to describe all the interesting things we saw and did, but if any of you are contemplating a holiday abroad, I can recommend Holland. The people are hospitable, the language is not a serious difficulty, the money is easy to reckon, and we found that their prices compared favourably with ours. Anyway, I had a jolly good time and intend to go there again. REG. C. BOTLY.

In the News

From the YORKSHIRE POST, August 26th.

"Work at Workington Iron and Steel Works came almost to a standstill yesterday while a blind telephone operator there for thirty years, Mr. John Straughton, received the British Empire Medal awarded by the Queen for "outstanding cheerfulness and constant devotion to duty." Every branch of the works was represented when Mr. Straughton, who was blinded in the First World War, received the medal. Mr. Straughton and Mr. Langton Highton, director and general manager, who presided at the ceremony, served in the same battery of the Royal Artillery. Mr. Highton said, 'For thirty years his cheerfulness and devotion and even temper at all times have been an inspiring example to all of us.'"

News of St. Dunstaners

David Taylor, of Swindon, who is a shopkeeper, ran a Coronation Day street party for local children. With himself as Chairman and Mrs. Taylor as Treasurer, they collected £170. Three hundred and forty people were entertained, and a balance over of £2 6s. 4d. bought three bottles of wine for the Wiltshire Association for the Care of the Blind.

★ ★ ★

George Fallowfield also made a nice gesture to celebrate the Coronation. He made two baby baskets which were lined in silk and equipped with powder, soap, etc., and presented them to the Southlands Hospital, Shoreham, for the first boy and girl born on Coronation Day.

★ ★ ★

G. W. R. Shepherd, of Whitchurch Hill, who was one of the prisoners of war in camp with Lord Normanby, established himself as a poultry farmer in 1951 and last year, he obtained a "Travelling Scholarship" in Agriculture through the Nuffield Foundation. He is now in the United States for a six months' study period and has already covered a lot of ground, going first from New York to Washington.

★ ★ ★

For the sixth time, H. T. Cheal took first prize at the Bristol Show for his onions. He also obtained first prize for dahlias.

★ ★ ★

"Ted" Mills, of Bloxwich, had great success at the recent Blind Association Flower Show. He won two first, a second and two third prizes for his exhibits, as well as securing the highest number of points.

★ ★ ★

A gardener who specialises is A. Hamlett, of Winsford. In spite of indifferent health, he is still tremendously keen on tobacco-growing. His sons have laid down a concrete path encircling the tobacco patch, and he is able to get round it easily with the aid of a railing.

★ ★ ★

On August 25th, Alexander Scott, of Belfast, gave a broadcast talk in the Northern Ireland Home Service under the title, "The Way Back." It described how he had adjusted his life after he had lost his sight in the air raids, serving as a Civil Defence Warden.

News From Overseas

Acknowledging the receipt of the Coronation Crown, E. O'Sullivan, of Westmead, New South Wales, writes:

"I have served on many battle fronts from the age of 17 to 48 and I am still working for Her Majesty as a gardener with the Royal Australian Navy."

★ ★ ★

F. Mayo, of Stockton, New South Wales, who was Armourer Sergeant (qualified) with the 8th Garrison Battalion, Australian Forces, tells us that he is now Acting Warrant Officer II, in charge of Vickers' Gun Training School at Adamstown.

★ ★ ★

In a letter to Headquarters dated August 11th, Charles Hills, of Bowral, New South Wales, writes:

"I am finding it increasingly difficult to type... I know one thing, and that is, that it takes much more concentration now than it did when I was at the School in 1915... This is one of the parts of Australia where snow falls very occasionally and we had a very heavy fall recently. My wife, who had never seen it before coming to Bowral, got very excited, but the whole thing left me cold. My fowls did not know what it was all about either, and I had to feed them in the house instead of outside in their trough as usual. Again thanking you and St. D's for just being..."

★ ★ ★

From Victoria, Australia, comes a letter from J. W. Seabrook, who was highly pleased to receive his Coronation Crown. "My male guide and I gate-crashed at the Red Cross for an afternoon cuppa," he writes, "we took a dozen cream sponges and held up work for an hour and a half. I took in the Silver Crown and it went the rounds of all the tea-tables... What's the matter with your English weather? Out here we have had it. I look forward to the Tests for weeks, have an early dinner and then settle down to an evening of cricket and on to the early morning, and what do I get? Rain, and more rain! I am an Englishman and want the English to win; my wife is an Aussie and wants the Aussies to win, so you can guess that no vaudeville show could beat this!"

★ ★ ★

Our old friend of the Sports Department, Jack Dawkins, is living in Los Angeles now. He says in a letter to the Editor

that the journey from New Jersey to Los Angeles, 3,000 odd miles, took just over three and a half days. He adds, "I would like to add my pat on the back to the loads they must have already received for their wonderful Brighton Walk, to Charles Williamson, dear old Archie Brown, and Charles Stafford."

★ ★ ★

It is always good to read the St. Dunstan's (South Africa) REVIEW, for interesting items of news about old friends. From the July number, however, we were very sorry to learn that Ken McIntyre recently went into hospital where he had to undergo operations to both feet. Ken's feet were badly injured at the same time as he received the wounds which blinded him.

★ ★ ★

From the same source we learn that Polly Botha has recently resigned his appointment as physiotherapist at Germiston hospital and has set up in private practice.

★ ★ ★

Another news flash from South Africa. While Jim Ellis was scrambling over the rocks whilst on holiday at Germanus, a voice said, "You don't know me, Jim Ellis, but I know you." It was Tom Graves, who worked in the Accounts Department at St. Dunstan's Headquarters in Regent's Park for nineteen years. Since 1939 he has been an accountant to a big gold-mining company on the Gold Coast and he spends his leave either in the Union of South Africa or in England. St. Dunstan's still has a very big place in his heart and he would like to be remembered to all those St. Dunstaners who knew him.

A Bite

An old friend of mine came up to me and exclaimed with some excitement: "What do you think? I saw a man catch a fish! It cost me three shillings! You see," he continued, "it's like this. Many years ago I watched men fishing in various competitions at seaside places. Never did I ever see one actually catch a fish. I swore to myself then that if ever I really saw anyone ever pull in a fish, no matter how small, I would send half-a-crown to St. Dunstan's. Well, it's happened at last. While I was at Hove last week I actually saw a bloke pull in a fish... I am fifty-eight now... I trotted straight away, bought a P.O." *Streatham.*

W. T. SCORR.

Talking Book Library

August Abridgments

Another mixed bag of five books is the harvest of the two holiday months, and four make fine reading for all, with the fifth very distinctly labelled "Ladies only." Here they all are:—

"The Life of Mahatma Gandhi," by Louis Fischer, reader Richard Wessell, is, unless the author is a fiction writer, the life story of the truest man to tread this earth since the beginning of Christianity. He was primarily a Hindu, but he distilled the best from the religions of the world and lived that best. I know this worldly world has always found such men a beastly nuisance until they are posthumously canonised, but this one held the teeming millions of India in the palm of his hand for the last fifteen or twenty years of his life. Most interesting and revealing!

"The Follower," by Patrick Quenton, reader Charles Richardson, conceals a thriller behind a simple title. The story flits from New York to Mexico as a simple, honest husband searches for his vicious, unhappy and entrapped wife. The final spot of shooting tidies up the story conveniently and somewhat heroically. Good entertainment!

"Some Tame Gazelle," by Barbara Pym, reader Lionel Marson, calls for the attention of lady readers and the story revolves around two sister spinsters who mother successive curates assisting the local Rural Dean. My blurred impression is that the making of socks, mufflers and cakes for chubby curates, odd visitors, minor scandal and a touch of romance add up to a pleasant, amusing, everyday yarn.

"One Man in his Time," by Bruce Belfrage, reader Bruce Belfrage, is a short autobiography of an actor who achieved fame on the team of wartime news readers, joined the Navy as a Security lecturer, stood as a Liberal in 1945, and returned to the stage. Quite amusing, rather rebellious, and wholly sincere.

"The Memoirs of a Sword Swallower," by Dan Mannix, reader Eric Gillett, tells of life in Carnival, the American equivalent of our Fairground. It is all most colourful, slightly crooked and somewhat larger than life. The Sword-Swallower adds fire-eating to his act and he explains the acts of many of his colleagues. This is strong medicine

and not to be read by those with queasy stomachs. Good fun, indeed, but can anyone tell me if it is, more or less, true?

There they are—as diversified a bunch as any could wish.

"NELSON."

To Deny A Rumour

I feel it is my duty to deny a rumour of subversive activity at the Fleet Air Arm station, H.M.S. Daedalus, Lee-on-Solent.

I give here the correct story—no names, no pack drill.

Three gentlemen of St. Dunstan's had visited the British Legion at Lee and over sundry pots of good English ale, had become talkative. We remembered incidents of war. Our escort told us of Burma and Malay years ago, of tattoo artistry and folklore. On the trek back to camp Fred started in about his tanks. Fred has the undoubted gift of expressing himself well, with dramatic crescendo and soft, fading tones.

As the last straight was passing 'neath our tread, Fred got to the retreat of March, 1918. He and his tank had approached the Somme, not a round of ammo. left, just petrol... but the bridges were frail and they were needed for the P.B.I. As a bridge came into view so did a Staff Major. "A revolver in each hand," he signalled the tank to stop. He presented Fred with a large container of Amonal, a long fuse, and instructions to wreck the machine.

We had approached the gates of the camp where the naval sentry stood with rifle and bayonet. Fred was in full voice. "Blow it up," he boomed. The sentry never winced. "Well, why not," he murmured.

The roar of laughter must have been heard in Gosport, and so when one hears now the famous words, "Blow it up," one's thoughts fly to yet another happy memory of Lee-on-Solent and the calm dignity of our own R.N.

JOHN A. MUDGE

P.S. Need I add that we had a smashing time and that all our thanks are due to Mrs. Spurway and her band of helpers, and to the Fleet Air Arm from airmen to Admiral.

From All Quarters

The summer number of "The Henley Telegraph," the magazine of Henley's Electrical Engineering and Cable Works, devoted half a page to an article entitled "Fred Warin Views the Coronation." It began, "For bluff heartiness Fred is undisputed champion. His varied daily greetings to his many friends are delivered in booming tones, each greeting, however, being specific and most sincere."

★ ★ ★

Jock Macfarlane was congratulated upon his B.E.M. in "The Whip," which is the Civil Service Union Journal. "Mac," it said, "has been one of the leading lights behind our organisation among the B.T.O.'s and much of the credit for great strides we have made here must be given to him . . . His long years of loyal service to the State have earned a fitting reward in the shape of a B.E.M. His work for the Union ought to qualify him for a further one!"

★ ★ ★

A two-page article in the *Northampton Independent*, on August 26th, was inspired by the story of two St. Dunstaners, the Rev. Dennis Pettit and Mr. W. A. Bramson. The article traced Mr. Pettit's war service and his entry into the Church. It mentioned a more recent task—the launching of an appeal for funds to repair the roof of his lovely Norman church—and it went on to tell of another war-blinded man, Arthur Bransom, of Northampton, who is a shop-keeper. The article ends, "Thank you, Mr. Pettit and Mr. Bramson, typical as you are of a score of fellow blind persons in town and country, for showing us how man can overcome adversity. And thank you, incidentally, for teaching the majority of us a lesson in facing up to our minor discontents."

★ ★ ★

Tom Niccol, of Harrogate, gave physiotherapy treatment to Test cricketers, Reg. Simpson, Trevor Bailey and Bill Edrich, during the fourth Test Match at Leeds.

★ ★ ★

Our sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. R. Noble, of Middlesbrough, whose little dog, Lady, has died at a great age. It will be remembered that Lady saved Mrs. Noble's life some years ago when her clothing caught fire.

★ ★ ★

Bill Harding, of Finsbury Park, and Mrs. Harding, who have had many successes

in the past in poultry-keeping, have this record so far this year: In May they won the Islington Supreme Egg Championship; in June, the Chingford Award of Merit for the best Pullet; in July, the Hornsey Supreme Egg Championship and in September, 1st and 2nd Prizes at the Welsh Hall, London, for White Leghorns. And this has been achieved in their spare time, and all their knowledge has been acquired at weekly evening classes. They only have a small garden behind the house.

★ ★ ★

The *Sunday Dispatch* and the *Manchester Evening Chronicle* have both in recent months mentioned A. G. Bright, of Blackpool, and his budgerigar, Joey Bright. With endless patience, Alf, has taught Joey a vocabulary of nine hundred words, and says that other birds pick it up from him. "The youngest teacher in Blackpool," said the *Manchester* paper.

★ ★ ★

If any St. Dunstaner would like a Braille board, S. W. Wain, of Derby, has one which he would be very pleased to let him have. It is of solid oak and very heavy.

★ ★ ★

In spite of his unavoidable absence from a very important meeting, our St. Dunstaner, Ernest Russell, of Leeds, has been re-elected to the British Legion West Riding County Committee for the seventh year in succession. This makes him the second longest-serving member on the Committee.

★ ★ ★

On August 18th George Reed received a tremendous ovation at The Dome, Brighton, when he appeared as Guest Artist, doing his—by now—well-known ventriloquist act. He played to a completely full house, and unfortunately many St. Dunstaners were unable to get seats owing to the tremendous crowds of summer visitors. However, by popular request, George gave the same act in the lounge at Ovingdean—where it was again received with enthusiasm.

★ ★ ★

A. Collier, of Little Walden, near Manchester, has planted in his front garden a full scale design representing St. Dunstan's badge. About one thousand bedding plants have been used, plus pebbles dyed red for the flames of the torch. It is a magnificent effort and has aroused great interest in the district.

Reunions

Gradually the 1953 Reunions are ending. There were three in July—Edinburgh, on the 21st, Newcastle two days later, and Harrogate on the 25th. Mr. D. G. Hopewell was the guest of honour at all three meetings, which although smaller than some, were nevertheless much enjoyed. Harrogate was a new venture—this northern meeting is usually held at Leeds—and the change was much appreciated. Staying at the same hotel (the Hotel Majestic) were the Australian Test cricketers who were playing in the Leeds Test Match, and the following letter was sent to Mr. Hopewell by Mr. George A. Davies, their Manager:

Dear Mr. Hopewell,

It has come to my notice that St. Dunstan's are holding an Annual Dinner and Reunion in Harrogate to-day, 25th July. I would like to convey to one and all the BEST WISHES of the Australian XI for a successful function.

It is needless for me to say that the wonderful work done by St. Dunstan's is known and admired throughout Australia.

Yours very sincerely,

GEORGE A. DAVIES,

Manager.

This tribute, from such grand sportsmen, was tremendously appreciated when it was read, with Sir Ian's message of good wishes.

August passed without any meetings, and then came the Birmingham Reunion of September 5th. As usual it was very well attended, and the guest of honour here was Mr. Alan Pitt Robbins, a member of St. Dunstan's Council. Mr. Robbins was News Editor of "The Times" until his retirement last June, and although he has been keenly interested in St. Dunstan's for very many years, this was his first opportunity of attending a Reunion, and he greatly enjoyed it.

Mr. Wills, Welfare Superintendent, was present at all the meetings, also to meet many men for the first time since his appointment.

'Owszat?

England's captain from Yorks, Len Hutton,
Thought Hassett a bit of a glutton
For winning the toss.
But he proved who was boss
For Beef won the Ashes, not Mutton.

H. CRABTREE.

Wool Rugs for the Winter

A few items which are *now* surplus to requirements at our training centre are being offered to St. Dunstaners at advantageous prices.

Wool (not Patons & Baldwins quality) is made up into lots sufficient to make a rug to the sizes stated. Because the lots in each colour are so few, please give a second and, if possible, a third selection.

Cash must be sent with your order and send sufficient to cover your first selection—if we are obliged to send your second or third selection you will be advised if any more money is needed.

Colour		No. of lots	For rug size 4' x 2'	
			Price per lot	
Bright Green	...	1	14/0d.	
Medium Green	...	4	14/0d.	
Black	...	5	14/0d.	
Fawn	...	2	14/0d.	

Cable Wool

Black	...	3	17/6d.
Brown	...	1	17/6d.

Colour		No. of lots	For rug size 4' 6" x 2' 3"	
			Price per lot	
Bright Green	...	1	15/9d.	
Medium Green	...	2	15/9d.	
Black	...	3	15/9d.	
Fawn	...	3	15/9d.	

Cable Wool

Black	...	3	21/0d.
Brown	...	2	21/0d.

Colour		No. of lots	For rug size 5' x 2' 6"	
			Price per lot	
Bright Green	...	1	18/6d.	
Medium Green	...	1	18/6d.	
Black	...	3	18/6d.	
Fawn	...	4	18/6d.	

Cable Wool

Brown	...	1	24/6d.
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Black Canvas for lining

33 yards	25" wide	1/9d. per yard
17 "	32" "	2/3d. " "
33 "	38" "	2/9d. " "

Adhesive Backing

10 yard of each:—Blue, pink and green, 38" wide at 2/6d. per yard.

Rug Hessian

10 to 12 yards, 36" wide at 1/0d. per yard.

Please send your order to: St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, Sussex. Enclose cash with order. First come, first served.

Stamp Collector

On August 14th, the *Evening Advertiser*, Swindon, devoted nearly a column, with a photograph, to our St. Dunstaner, F. A. E. Hawes, who is a keen philatelist. With his three brothers, he has built up a valuable collection of some 50,000 stamps. Through his hobby he has made many friends.

Ovingdean Notes

Throughout the whole of August Ovingdean has been full with St. Dunstaners on holiday.

The racegoers were here in force, of course, for the end of July and the beginning of August was the famous "Sussex Fort-night," which meant we were away at a race meeting at either Goodwood, Lewes or Brighton on most days.

For those who enjoy coach rides, there were plenty of those too. Arundel, Wannock Gardens, Drusilla's, Smugglers' Roost, Rustington, were amongst the places visited.

One particularly enjoyable Concert was given to a most appreciative audience in the Lounge at Ovingdean on Sunday, August 22nd, when a group of the boys of Christ's Hospital visited us once again. Though the school was still on holiday, the boys had given up their time to come over to entertain us. It was a first-class Concert and we shall all look forward to having them come again.

The Autumn Term began on August 26th, and on the 28th a small party of trainees were invited to London to attend the Model Engineer Exhibition, where special arrangements had been made for them to be admitted to the Exhibition prior to the general public. They spent a very interesting morning there and were afterwards entertained to lunch.

Test Results

Preliminary Reading.—Miss D. Phillippo, L. Dennis.

Typing Test.—C. Fisher, Miss D. Phillippo, T. Tonge.

Writing Test.—C. J. Nichols, W. Thomas, R. Armstrong.

Senior Reading.—J. Padley, J. Cruse, S. McNamara.

Advanced Interpoint.—Mrs. A. Gimbrece.

Retirement

Since the announcement about Mr. Kenneth Norman's retirement from Ovingdean Staff appeared in the April number of *THE REVIEW*, it has been suggested that many St. Dunstaners would like to subscribe to a presentation for him.

Commandant at Ovingdean has been approached, and has said he will be pleased to act as Honorary Treasurer of the Fund, and St. Dunstaners who wish to associate themselves with the proposed presentation should send their subscriptions to Mr. L. Fawcett at Ovingdean.

Births

BAUGH.—On August 26th, to the wife of F. T. Baugh, of Long Eaton, a daughter—Christine Ann.

BOSELEY.—On August 26th, to the wife of A. H. Boseley, of Liscard, Wallasey, twins—a boy and a girl. Unhappily the little girl did not live, but their son—Ian Archibald—is doing well.

CHAPPELL.—On August 5th, to the wife of A. T. Chappell, of Stonard's Hill, Essex, a daughter—Tessa Claire.

MOORE.—On August 6th, to the wife of A. D. Moore, of Oxhey, Watford, a daughter—Barbara Anne.

MANNERS.—On August 17th, to the wife of Melville Manners, of Bridgend, Glamorgan, a son—Gerald Edwin.

NORMAN.—On July 10th, to the Rev. Michael and Mrs. Norman, of Cape Province, South Africa, a son—David John Heugh.

PAWSON.—On August 19th, to the wife of F. Pawson, of Beckenham, a daughter—Jane.

Marriages

HESKETH—HENSHAW.—On July 18th, F. V. Hesketh (late of Greenford, now of Hove), to Miss Frances Henshaw.

SHILLETO—ACKLAND.—On September 12th, E. S. Shilleto, of West House, Brighton, to Mrs. Annie Ackland, of Hammersmith.

WALBRUGH.—On July 29th, John Walbrugh, of South Africa, (trainee). The marriage took place in Yorkshire.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy is extended to the following:—

BROOKS.—To S. S. Brooks, of Welwyn Garden City, in the loss of his mother.

COOPER.—To A. J. Cooper, of Toronto, Canada, whose wife died shortly after their arrival in this country on holiday. Mrs. Cooper's body was flown to Canada for burial there.

JESSUP.—To G. Jessup, at present of St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, whose wife died on September 6th, after a serious illness. They were married only last April.

POWER.—To G. Power, of Bristol, whose brother has recently died.

STEEL.—To Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Steel, of Upper Walthamstow, whose 21-year-old only son, James, was tragically killed at his place of business on July 24th.

WEBSTER.—To S. Webster, of Forest Hill, whose mother died last month.

R.A.O.B.

The high honour of the Prime Jewel has been awarded to R. E. Sampson, of Taffs Well, near Cardiff. This is a coveted honour of the Buffs, entitling its holder to enter any Lodge in the world. There is much to memorise and our St. Dunstaner went through the ceremony perfectly.

Placements

G. Chisholm, as a telephonist with Messrs. Peat, Markwick, Mitchell & Co., of New-castle; S. Bogicevic, on industrial work with Messrs. Electronic Developments (Surrey) Ltd., of Kingston-on-Thames; J. L. Dennis, as a shop-keeper in a tobacco and confectionery kiosk, at Croydon; R. A. F. Freer, of Gravesend, in a tobacco-nist's and confectioner's business.

Grandfathers

E. W. Jarman, of Llandudno; J. Thompson, of Parkstone; A. A. Dembenski, of Cheltenham; E. James, of Darlington (another grandson); J. P. Dixon, of Bolton. Arthur T. Brooks, Bournemouth, a third grandchild; C. H. Stock, of Southampton.

Miss J. Alexander

St. Dunstaners will learn with deep regret of the sudden death of Miss Jean Alexander, Secretary and Librarian of the National Library for the Blind for nearly three years. Miss Alexander first joined the Library in 1945 and many St. Dunstan's men have come to know her warm friendliness and to value the great kindness and help which she gave so generously and so readily. She will indeed be greatly missed.

Mr. W. A. Yeoman

We have recently heard with regret of the death of Mr. W. A. Yeoman, who for so many years organised the Brighton Grocers annual entertainment for St. Dunstan's. He died on August 8th, at the age of eighty.

★ ★ ★

The sad news has also come to us of the death, on July 22nd, of Mrs. Makin, widow of our St. Dunstaner, D. Makin, of Wall-send-on-Tyne, who died in January of this year.

"In Memory"—continued**Gunner Christopher Sullivan, MEDAILLE MILITAIRE, CROIX DE GUERRE, Royal Field Artillery**

It is with deep regret that we record the death of C. Sullivan, of London, S.E.2. He died on September 9th at the age of 63.

When he came to St. Dunstan's in April, 1919, he trained as a boot-repairer and he did this work for some time. He also kept some poultry. Later he gave up boot-repairing and during the recent war, undertook factory work and this he continued until his death.

The funeral took place at Woolwich Cemetery after Requiem at the Catholic Church.

He leaves a widow and grown up family to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Private W. Sullivan, Royal Army Service Corps

It is with deep regret that we record the death of one of our Irish St. Dunstaners, W. Sullivan, of County Cork.

He served in the First World War, but he did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1946, when he was too old and ill to take up any serious work. He was, however, very happy with his son and daughter-in-law, and took a great interest in a little small-holding.

At the time of the Irish Reunions he had been delighted to meet Mr. Hopewell, Mr. Wills and Miss Wilson, who were able to call and see him. He died on August 19th. He was over eighty years of age. Our deep sympathy is offered to his family.

Sapper Thomas J. Warren, Royal Engineers

We record with deep regret the death of T. J. Warren, of Chalvey, Slough, which occurred in hospital on August 17th. He was sixty years old.

He was trained in basket making when he came to St. Dunstan's in July, 1930, and continued with this craft until the end. His health had not been good for some time, and he became much worse and was admitted to hospital on August 16th, where he died the following day.

To Mrs. Warren and her son our deep sympathy is extended.

Sergeant John Muir, 2nd King's Own Scottish Borderers

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of J. Muir, of High Wycombe.

"Jock," as everyone knew him, came to St. Dunstan's in December, 1917. He trained first as a poultry-farmer and continued with this for some years. During the war he undertook factory work, and when the war was over, returned to poultry-keeping in a smaller way, and netting.

He was a keen member of the St. Dunstan's Bridge Club—in 1950 he was Captain—and at the cremation ceremony at Golders Green on September 9th, St. Dunstan's and the Club were represented by Mr. F. Jackson and Drummer Downs. The ashes were later taken to Berwick, where they were buried in the family grave.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Muir.

“ In Memory ”

Private Robert Young, 42nd Highland Division (Canadian) Black Watch

With deep regret we record the death of Robert Young, of Ovingdean.

With the outbreak of the war in 1914, he came over to England from Winnipeg, with the Reserves, and was transferred to the 42nd Highland Division. He was wounded and came to St. Dunstan's immediately upon his discharge from the Army in June, 1917. He trained first in mat making, then in boot-repairing. He also did joinery for some time, but was forced eventually to give up work following a deterioration in his health.

He died at the Ovingdean Home on August 3rd and was cremated at the Brighton Crematorium. There were present Mr. H. D. Defries, Secretary, Mr. E. Jelf, standard-bearer, Mr. Laramy, Welfare Officer, and Messrs. Dolden and Fause representing the Canadian Veterans' Association of the United Kingdom (Brighton and Hove Branch), a number of St. Dunstaner friends from Ovingdean, and Miss Carlton and Commandant Fawcett, representing staff.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Young.

Sapper William Henry Walker, Royal Engineers Tunnelling Company

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. H. Walker, of Durham.

He was wounded in Belgium after serving from December, 1914, until 1918, and came to St. Dunstan's early in 1919, when he trained as a boot-repairer and mat-maker, taking first-class certificates in both trades.

For a very long time, however, he had not been able to work. He suffered severely, and he died at his home on July 31st.

Our deep sympathy is offered to Mrs. Walker, who is herself ill, and to her family who have nursed him devotedly for so long.

Gunner George Cocker, Royal Garrison Artillery

We record with deep regret the death of G. Cocker, of North Cadbury, Yeovil, which occurred suddenly in hospital on August 10th following an operation.

He came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1916, but he could not undertake any training.

He leaves a widow and grown-up daughter to whom our very sincere sympathy is extended.

Private Edward Story, West Yorkshire Regiment

We record with deep regret the death of E. Story, of Ashford.

He was discharged from the Army in November, 1919, but it was not until July, 1930, that he came to St. Dunstan's. He trained then in mat-making, and later had a shop. Then he worked at wool rugs and netting. He was carrying on this work right up to the time he entered hospital in July. He died on July 24th.

Our very sincere sympathy is extended to Mrs. Story and her family.

Private John Eldred Parnell, Queen's Royal West Kent Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. E. Parnell, of Thundersley.

He came under St. Dunstan's care in June, 1921, and he trained then in basket-making, but for some years now, ill health had prevented him carrying on any work.

He died at the Ovingdean Home on July 20th.

Our very sincere sympathy goes out to his widow and her family.

Private Sydney Bull, 3/9th East Kent Yeomanry

With deep regret we have to record the death of S. Bull, of Hemel Hempstead, at the age of sixty.

He came to St. Dunstan's in April, 1917, upon his discharge from the Army, and he trained in joinery. He continued with this work and also had a small shop, but later gave this up to continue alone with joinery. He had, however, been ill for a considerable period and had spent a great deal of time in hospital, undergoing an operation. He died on August 30th.

He leaves a widow and grown-up daughter, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Corporal John Percy Dixon, Royal Army Pay Corps

We record with deep regret the death of J. P. Dixon, of Bolton.

He saw service from October, 1916, to February, 1919, but he did not come to us until 1950, his sight having then failed as a result of mustard gas. He was able only to take up light hobby work. In August he was very ill and was admitted to hospital, but he died a week later—on August 23rd. He and his wife had only a short while before bought a bungalow in which they had planned to enjoy their retirement.

Amongst many friends present at the funeral were two St. Dunstaners, Messrs. H. Pollitt and J. Shaw. The Manchester St. Dunstan's Club was represented by Mrs. E. M. Dunphy and Mr. Shaw. A tribute in memory of our St. Dunstaner was paid at the graveside by representatives of the Masonic Lodge to which he belonged.

We extend our deep sympathy to Mrs. Dixon and her family.

Continued on page 15

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 409—VOLUME XXXVII

OCTOBER, 1953

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

To—and From—The Editor.

A letter to the Editor is not usually on the front page but the one which follows is, we think, worthy of it. It is from Stewart Spence, of Hillingdon, and he writes:

DEAR EDITOR,

In the September issue of the REVIEW, I, a product of World War II, read with a great deal of interest an article by John Oriel concerning the advance of blindness from gas poisoning sustained over 30 years ago. The subject matter was rather gripping to me for I have never of course, had that experience.

However, it was not completely what was written that held me, but how it was put on paper. I am of the considered opinion that the literary standard of our magazine has been for a long time sadly in need of re-vitalisation. In his article, Mr. Oriel has produced an example of the type which is desirable. It is interesting, stylish, and altogether of a professional standard.

Hitherto there appears to have been a set form to which most contributors have bowed down; it is this very obedience to convention that gives me a jaundiced view. I think that with an attempt to do a bit better, the variety which is needed would be secured. A very simple example of what I mean lies in the consecutive attempts on the speed-air record by Great Britain and the United States of America. When one reaches a high speed, the other immediately tries to do better, and so on.

Another thing that strikes me pretty forcibly is the very obvious brand of humour extant in almost every REVIEW. It seldom makes me laugh unless I know what is being written about. It is all rather nostalgic. I want to read an article that genuinely tickles my palate and preferably on a subject that is new to me. This leads me to the observation that perhaps the periodical is too serious. There does not seem to be a proper balance for the serious air and length of the Chairman's Notes, though I would not like to see them cut, for they are always interesting. The only things that are provided to even out the atmosphere are the Talking Book criticism by "NELSON," which is a real delight even if you do not possess a machine, and the occasional letter from George Ellis and Jock McFarlane. How many of us realise that his cheek positively balloons with his tongue when he writes a letter to the Editor about Sisters and the like?

Of course, I have been criticising but in the gentlest manner possible for me. It is very easy to criticise and, for me, I could add the adjective "vituperatively," but I do not think that is called for here. I am attempting to sow the seeds of constructive criticism, too, in the hope that such will prove fruitful. I am not suggesting that our particular magazine ought to become a rag. I venture further to say that it will not so degenerate if we all try

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our best by submitting articles without the fear of rejection. It may well be that in my ignorance I have put my finger on the trouble. Possibly there are insufficient contributions to make publication selective. Let's all put new ribbons into our "Juniors," and get cracking, and I repeat, without fear or shyness, for remember, a publication depends for its success on the number of rejection slips it has to issue.

Yours faithfully,
STEWART SPENCE.

To that excellent letter, the Editor has only this comment to add.

The literary standard could probably be raised, but the REVIEW is not primarily a literary magazine. It is a medium for St. Dunstaners' views, and news, and if literary style is to be the criterion, most St. Dunstaners will put off for ever writing for it.

All contributions will therefore continue to be welcomed, in whatever style the writers choose. But if, as Mr. Spence suggests, we can get away from "obedience to convention," so much the better. New writers—and critics—forward!

Brighton Reunion

Nearly two hundred and fifty St. Dunstaners, wives and friends, crowded into the Grand Hotel, Brighton, on Wednesday, September 16th, to attend the Reunion of the men of Sussex. The guest of honour at this very popular meeting was Mr. D. G. Hopewell, a member of the Council. Mr. Hopewell said that before Sir Ian and Lady Fraser had left for their visit to South Africa, Sir Ian had asked him to convey their best wishes for a most successful meeting. Mr. Hopewell proposed the toast, "To St. Dunstaners," to which Mr. F. G. Richardson, of Lancing, replied on their behalf.

Double Event

The Brighton Reunion brought together two St. Dunstaners who served together in the South Staffordshire Regiment in the 1914-1918 war. Thirty-five years ago, Private J. Alcott left Lieut. S. C. Jackson on the battlefield and eventually came to St. Dunstan's. In 1951, Mr Jackson himself became a St. Dunstaner, as a result of delayed mustard gas injuries. From Kidderminster he has recently moved to Southwick, so that he and Mr. Alcott (Shoreham) now live within a few miles of each other.

Televised

Wally Thomas was interviewed by Jeanne Heal on the television programme of October 5th. Miss Heal talked to him by means of the special writer which Wally described in the REVIEW some months ago, and which was invented by a friend of his.

Presentation to Miss Vaughan Davies

Some fifty St. Dunstaners and their escorts were at the London Club on Tuesday September 22nd, for the presentation to Miss Vaughan Davies of the wireless set which was the gift of St. Dunstaners upon her retirement. Inscribed on the set were the words:

"Presented to Miss B. Vaughan Davies, Matron of the Blackpool Home, from her St. Dunstan's friends on her retirement."

Mr. Askew, who had acted as Hon. Treasurer of the Fund, said that it was appropriate that the ceremony should be made at the London Club since so many Londoners had enjoyed the hospitality of Blackpool, particularly in the war years. He called on Mr. Percy Ashton, the Club's President, to make the presentation. Percy expressed their deep appreciation of Miss Vaughan Davies's services to the Blackpool Home. They would remember her there with great affection, but particularly would they remember her at West House in the early years from 1921 onwards.

Miss Vaughan Davies received a very warm welcome when she rose to reply. As Matron of the Blackpool Home, she said, she had had very many happy years, but the days at West House would be among her happiest memories. It was there that she had first made so many friends amongst St. Dunstaners, and it was there that she first knew so many of the children—children who now were grown up with homes of their own, but with whom she was always in touch. Thousands of their photographs reminded her of those happy days.

London Club Notes

Indoor Section

On a bright sunny morning on Sunday, 20th September, two coaches left the Club with club members, wives and escorts, for a day's outing to Southsea. After a beautiful drive through the lovely Hampshire countryside, lunch was taken and then the party split up—some off to the Isle of Wight, some on to the Pier and some to bask in the sunshine on the Prom. After an excellent tea a sincere vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Willis and the party set off on the drive home, singing all the old songs and choruses, and that ended a really lovely day.

On Friday, 25th September, we were the guests of the Park Royal Vehicle Co. for a darts match. Our team, not playing up to their usual high standard, were beaten; nevertheless we are indebted to our hosts for one of the best evenings we have had for a long time.

W. BISHOP.

Bridge

The St. Dunstan's Bridge Club have again been to Harrogate for a week's mixture of Match and Social Bridge. Our party numbered ten and we were greatly assisted by Mr. Bob Willis, and Mrs. Broughton who came along with Blodwyn. In the event on the Sunday for the St. Dunstan's Trophy (teams of four) we failed badly; in fact, our B team, consisting of Messrs. Collins, Delaney, Rhodes and Jolly, finished in front of the A team. Four other matches were played during the week, two of which we won.

On the Friday evening as usual, we invited the members of the various clubs that we had visited to come to our "At Home." This was a great success and the winners of the Bridge Drive received prizes made by St. Dunstaners. The whole week was a great success and we all appreciate the work put in beforehand and during the week by our Harrogate friends, particularly Mr. J. Morrison and Mr. Frank Noakes.

On September 19th, the Bridge Club played off the second leg of the North of the River versus South. You will remember that North were 1,610 points up in March and this time North had a plus of 1,410, which means that North won the Cup for the first time, by 3,020 points.

September 26th was another Bridge party in the shape of a Bridge Drive, and Mr. Gellatly acted as M.C. There were ten tables, and each St. Dunstaner had a sighted friend as partner. The winners were F. Winter and partner; 2nd, G. Brown and partner; 3rd, J. Fleming and partner.

H. GOVER.

St. Dunstan's Two Mile Handicap

Handicapper Mr. W. J. Harris R.W.A.

Highgate Harriers Invitation Race

Parliament Hill Fields, 26th September, 1953

Order of Finish	H'cap Time	All.	Actual Time
1. G. Bilcliff	16:51	3:15	20:06
2. S. Tutton	16:58	2:20	19:18
3. D. Fleisig	17:02	2:25	19:27
4. D. Faulkner	17:15	3:05	20:20
5. C. Stafford	17:21	2:40	20:01
6. L. Dennis	17:44	2:10	19:54
7. W. Miller	17:50	scr.	17:50
<i>fastest loser</i>			
8. A. Brown	18:01	1:10	18:11
9. A. Bradley	18:03	1:40	19:43
10. J. Kibler	18:55	2:55	21:50
11. F. Madgewick	18:56	2:50	21:46
12. L. Copeman	24:02	2:45	26:47

1st G. Bilcliff

2nd S. Tutton

3rd D. Fleisig

Fastest Loser W. Miller.

The Pro Canto Choir

Mr. Eric Greene, the well-known tenor, has formed a small Choral Society of Blind Singers, which will give performances of oratorios and cantatas, both sacred and secular.

The Society has been named the Pro Canto Choir and practices will take place each week in the Armitage Hall at the National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, W.1.

Will all who wish to become members inform Mr. Sinclair Logan, Secretary, Music Department, N.I.B., at the very earliest possible moment. Braille parts are available and members should be able to read Braille Music Notation well enough to read a single voice part, whether or not they have ever sung from Braille before; singers who cannot read Braille will be accepted if they give Mr. Greene an assurance that they will learn their parts at home.

A Society directed by an eminent musician and no subscription to pay—this is an unprecedented opportunity for lovers of choral singing.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR SIR,

May I congratulate John A. Oriel for the clarity of his article in the REVIEW for September. I quite agree that with blindness at a later age, familiarity of surroundings is a great help, and the ability to continue, in a modified form, the trade or calling that we have pursued when fully sighted, can be a great help. But I cannot agree that the sense of urgency for earning a living at 50 is greatly diminished.

When I was in the R.N. Hospital, Gillingham, in 1917, (Sergeant Douglas, of the R.N.D. was there, too) I was told that I should be totally blind within five years, and so I was invalided. Being a time-serving man, I had no trade, and the Damoclean sword of the prospect of the loss of sight at an early age hung over my head. In the subsequent years, I worked as an electrician, took the advantage of a spare-time job as a night operator on a G.P.O. telephone switchboard of about 1,000 lines. During the early stages of this war I was on the Inspection Department of the "shell" division of the M.O.S. at Bridgend (I was there when the explosion occurred which caused one of our St. Dunstan's girls to lose her sight). Later I was transferred to the Fighting Vehicle division as an engineering inspector and worked on tanks and Lloyd carriers.

In 1952, I was admitted to St. Dunstan's, but was quite unprepared when, at Marylebone Road, I was asked what I would like to do. I did not realise that I was being asked this in a serious manner and I am afraid that I answered somewhat jocularly that I would like to be a bus conductor on the Victoria to Hyde Park run. I regret that remark as at sixty I feel that there is life in the old dog yet, and that a state of near inanition is not conducive to good health. If something more active was to come my way, then I should have a "bash" at it. But it would not be in a factory or, indeed, anything that involved travelling by street transport.

I am grateful that I, like the previous correspondent, have been able to enjoy some years of good sight and I, too, know the difficulty of starting an entirely new style of job at a late age, or even one of the old ones from a new angle.

Sincerely Yours,

Margate.

ERNEST E. J. S. BURTON.

DEAR EDITOR,

I feel that it is time that someone protested over the Government neglect of disabled war pensioners. In March, 1952, Mr. Heathcote-Amory, the Minister of Pensions, said that the buying power of the basic pension, which was then £2 5s. 0d. per week had fallen 17s. In September of that year a 10s. increase was given, to be swallowed up immediately by a steep rise in the cost of living due to the taking-off of food subsidies.

The Government have now merged the Ministry of Pensions with the Ministry of National Insurance. This economy drive shows a mental attitude that can in the long run be detrimental to disabled pensioners. Now we have no Minister to state publicly the case for pensioners.

How often do we to-day hear the demand for a £4 10s. 0d. a week basic pension? Only now as a faint cry in the wilderness from the British Legion. Yet from 1945 to 1950 it was being made continuously. Was this merely political hocus pocus, for our national economic plight was far worse then than it is to-day.

Yours sincerely,

Addiscombe, Surrey. EDGAR R. ETTRIDGE.

Guess Who? at Ovingdean

1. He dashes round, the bobs to fetch,
The sweep is won—now where's the wretch?
2. We have a lady who on the quiet
Is asked to provide a windless diet.
3. Incomparable for weight and size,
As Titania could she really rise?
4. Late evening hopeful, asks for rum
Terse reply, "You've had it—(cocoa),
chum!"
5. From lofty sphere mid 'skin and
gristle,
The day's great thought—the doubtful
rissole.
6. Up or down, to him it's all the same,
Blimey, they must push it for a game.
7. Says he wants a blonde and where's
his tickets?
To her confides about his rickets.
8. Saviours all, sans airs and graces,
Safe repairs to damaged braces.
9. Spondulicks, boodle—nothing rash,
Just try and fiddle the petty cash.
10. Receiver of the groans and growls,
Would he be better keeping fowls?

(Answers, if required, on page 12).

Birmingham Swimming Gala

The fifth Annual Swimming Gala was again held at Birmingham by the courtesy of the Corporation Baths Department. It was a very happy occasion, by all accounts, and everybody thinks it is the best so far held. The competitors let themselves be grouped conveniently into four teams, London, Wales, The Midlands and the Rest of England. The standard was again high and the judges, who were our friends from the Birmingham Leander Swimming Club, enjoyed their task which was not always easy. In spite of the lanes being laid, there was the almost inevitable swimming out of course, so that a good swim did not always win a prize. However, no one minded, and the sportsmanship shown earned tribute from the stewards and spectators.

It was so pleasant to have with us Mrs. Spurway and Miss Hoare, although we had to bid them goodbye rather abruptly so that they might get the London team on the homeward train. The Birmingham Club and its Red Cross friends and helpers always enjoy its many escort, catering and stewarding duties of the day, and rejoice when there are so many old and new friends to greet. There can never be too many, so let us all book the third Saturday (18th) of September, 1954, so that next year's gathering, both of competitors and audience, may be a record.

The Birmingham Red Cross County Director was unable to be with us but we had all his good wishes, and his deputy, Mr. Addis, presented the prizes and paid a great compliment to the competitors.

Our thanks are due also to our anti-bump, or rescue stewards. Our circle of Gala friends is growing fast, so that Birmingham is very proud of her rich connections in this respect.

Here are the results:—

Individual Champion : Gilbert Stanley.

Team Trophy (Challenge Cup) : The Midlands.

Relay Race : London Team (medallists.)

1 length T.B. free style : 1st, G. Stanley.
2nd, D. Bingham.
3rd, C. Stafford.

1 length S.S. free style : 1st, R. Beales.
2nd, D. Fleisig.
3rd, F. Barratt.

1 length T.B. breast : 1st, G. Stanley.
2nd, D. Bingham.
3rd, C. Stafford.

1 length S.S. breast : 1st, D. Fleisig.
2nd, J. Dunkley.
3rd, F. Barratt.

1 length T.B. backstroke : 1st, G. Stanley.
2nd, G. Waterworth.

1 length S.S. backstroke : 1st, J. Dunkley.
2nd, D. Fleisig.
3rd, R. Beales.

Style Competition, T.B. : 1st, G. Stanley.
2nd, G. Waterworth.
3rd, P. Spencer.

Diving : 1st, G. Stanley.
2nd, D. Bingham.
3rd, J. Dunkley.

Plunging : 1st, P. Spencer.
2nd, T. O'Connor.
3rd, R. Beales.

P. A. FAIRHEAD.

We Hear That—

Winston Holmes, of Stonehouse, was one of the winning pair in an open cribbage competition organised by Gloucester Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association.

★ ★ ★

S. Purvis's leeks have brought him three first prizes, a second and a third in recent shows. A photograph taken at Seghill Social Club with one of his prizes—a handsome cocktail cabinet—appeared in the local paper.

★ ★ ★

A. Collier, whose St. Dunstan's badge in flowers was mentioned last month, lives at Little Hulton, Walkden, and not Little Walkden, as reported. A photograph of this lovely piece of work has since reached the Editor, who can only say that it rivals many of the show pieces so proudly shown in public gardens.

★ ★ ★

On September 19th, C. E. Temperton, of Hull, was present when his old regiment, the East Yorkshire Regiment, was presented with the Queen's Colours.

★ ★ ★

During the holiday season, Mrs. Margaret Stanway, who runs a boarding house at Morecambe, plays her accordion outside on Friday evenings and two of her visitors take round collecting boxes for St. Dunstan's. In four nights, playing from 11.15 until midnight, she collected £12.

★ ★ ★

Tom Salter, of Battersea, was presented in May with a fine striking clock by his employers, Trust Houses, Ltd., in recognition of thirty years' unbroken service on the telephone switchboard.

Talking Book Library

September Sextet

Here half a dozen books have arrived to satisfy every taste. Comedy, tragedy, drama, heroism, and even the Wild West figure in this delightful array. Behold the synopses!

"Festival at Farbridge," by J. B. Priestley, reader Eric Gillett, is hilariously funny with slight touches of pathos which emphasise the comedy. A tale of the handful behind the scenes in a local festival organisation of 1951. Long it may be, but never dull.

"West of the Sunset," by Dan James, reader Charles Richardson, tells of the ruin of the Sugar Bowl ranch by rustlers, its sale, and the consequent struggle of the new owner to build it up again. Medium length and plenty of bang! bang!

"Montrose," by C. V. Wedgewood, reader Arthur Bush, is one of this island's epics of glorious failure. A truly remarkable young general of a character that can only be called austere noble, Charles I's representative in Scotland, is deserted by his misinformed monarch and after desperate struggles, falls victim to schemers and intriguers. Most absorbing, but alas—too short.

"The Cruel Sea," by N. Monsarrat, reader Franklin Engleman, pulls no punches in its account of the battle against U-boats. Hence, though I think it a masterpiece of its kind, it may be a trifle too lifelike for sensitive readers. It is of medium length and shows, at the very least, how much the Merchant Navy deserved "danger money" during the war.

"Dr. Thorne," by Anthony Trollope, reader Eric Gillett, is a romantic story in the village of Greshambury in mid-Victorian days. No blood and thunder but an interesting and even exciting plot concerning blood, rank, money and matrimony.

"Geordie," by David Walker, reader John K. Cross, is an account of a young Highlander saddled in boyhood with the title "Wee." He takes a course of body building with astounding results. Short, dramatic and entertaining! NELSON.

Placements

L. S. Scales, as a telephonist with Messrs. T. Wall and Sons, Ltd., Croydon; J. H. H. Pilon, on assembly work with Messrs. Trojan, Ltd., Waddon, Surrey.

Physiotherapists' Conference

More than ninety St. Dunstan's physiotherapists met in conference at Ovingdean during the week-end of October 10th.

Many important topics were discussed and the Conference listened with great interest to a lecture on Ultrasonics, by Dr. Ian H. M. Curwen, of the Physical Medicine Department of St. Thomas's Hospital. At the official luncheon, Mr. Godfrey Robinson, C.B.E., M.C., Chairman of the Royal National Institute for the Blind and a Member of St. Dunstan's Council, presided. The B.B.C.'s Friday Morning Doctor was another speaker at the Conference.

At the General Meeting, presided over by Douglas Calder, messages were read from Sir Ian Fraser, who was on a visit to South Africa, and from the Minister of Health, regretting their absence and wishing the Conference every success. When the election of the St. Dunstan's Physiotherapy Advisory Committee took place, the four retiring members were all re-elected, the Committee comprising as before: *North*: Messrs. G. Cock, A. G. Fisher, J. B. Purcell; *West*: Messrs. J. D. Calder, J. W. Delaney, W. G. Morris; *East*: Messrs. N. McLeod Steel, M. Burns, C. Cooper; *Central*: Messrs. S. C. Tarry, W. T. Scott, C. R. Bulman. Mr. C. J. R. Fawcett was re-elected as St. Dunstan's member to sit on the Joint Committee for the Blind of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. Mr. F. J. Ripley would continue to sit on the Braille Selection Sub-Committee of the A.C.B.M.

Talks which followed included one on Arthroplasty, by Mr. Temple Theodore Stamm, F.R.C.S., of Guy's Hospital.

Rotary

Rotarian E. Slaughter's appointment as President of Salisbury Rotary Club has raised the question of how many other St. Dunstaners have achieved this honour.

Rotarian Godfrey Robinson, C.B.E., M.C., was President in Hull in the year 1937-38, and Rotarian L. Howell, in Haywards Heath, in 1950-51.

Are there any other names to add to this list?

Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Smith, of Preston, and late of Blackpool, October 12th.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. G. Dunwoodie, of New-castle, October 3rd.

Poetry and the Blind

When a blind man is with an intelligent and understanding person, he will have described to him the things which are happening in the vicinity—the unusual, the commonplace, and the seemingly trivial. The blind man's quick ear will pick up sounds and he will have a good idea of what is occurring, but to have a complete picture, he must have someone else's eyes and be given a word picture of what is going on.

But the friend with the "seeing eye and understanding heart" is not always at hand.

Fortunately, we have available to us people who can fill the need to a great extent—men and women down the ages, who have left to us a wonderful heritage in the field of poetry. They have painted the scene for us in imperishable words.

A blind person could wish for no better companions through life than these. Whatever his mood, there is always something to suit him for the poets had their joys and their sorrows, their moments of delight, and the depths of despair.

Poetry about animals is always pleasing to me, and *The Anthology of English Verse* has a number of these, including "The Donkey," by G. K. Chesterton, "McCafferty the Cat," by T. S. Eliot and several others. These have been recorded for the Talking Book Library together with a wide variety of other poems. I should like to suggest that a recording be made of a further selection of poems.

In addition to reading, or listening to poetry, some I feel sure would find great enjoyment in composition. There is ample scope for everyone and it is really great fun, and very satisfying too, even if our efforts do not reach beyond our own family circle, or even if we tear up our efforts in disgust. Many great poets have done this.

To many people the poetic person is regarded as effeminate, a long-haired, dreamy individual. Nothing is further from the truth; the true poet is a live, realistic and far-seeing creature, who often gets straight to the root of things while others are vainly groping in the dark. They can see "A world in a grain of sand, and a whole heaven in a wild flower."

C. T. KELK.

The W.R.A.C. (Mixed Hy. A.A.) "At Home"

In 1945 when I was discharged from the A.T.S. because of my disability, I said, "Never again," and when my Pay Book was endorsed with those terribly final words "Category E" I closed a chapter. Or did I?

In the intervening years I have quietly kept in close touch with my old friends; I have attended our reunions at the Albert Hall; I have stood up to say my little piece at Annual General Meetings. But one thing I would not do, one place I would not visit, was my old R.H.Q. at Chetwynd. Why? Was I scared of the double bus journey? Was I sorry I was so disabled I couldn't serve any longer? Was it that I disliked the thought of the Service going on without me in it? Maybe a mixture of it all.

But just as 25th July, 1939, is a vital date in my life, a day on which I had opened and read a Top Secret letter and realised war was imminent, so 25th July, 1953, is also a date of importance. I had received an invitation to attend the "At Home" of the New Drill Hall built in the grounds of the original R.H.Q. of the 3rd Hy. A.A. Regiment, R.A. Should I go? Was the day too wet? But I did go. The rain tipped down and the outdoor exhibition arranged had to be cancelled.

As I listened to a description of what was going on in the New Drill Hall, I recalled the queer old days when I seemed to do nothing but beetle around in a little red car, making sure I visited every girl on eleven gun sites on Merseyside; when because they weren't allowed in the men's canteens, I had run a little canteen and with many inward chuckles of recalling how the damned bottles of pop chinkled and chunked as the car moved, sometimes a bit too quickly, over the bumpy Liverpool dock roads. I found myself thinking of the first few weeks when I had moved over to the Unit at Birkenhead and taken over a terribly dirty house. Of how we had all worked, with a full regimental job, as well as cleaning down our quarters. Of how hard the floor still seemed after seven months of sleeping on floors wooden or concrete—and oddly enough how bumpy the first real bed seemed after floor hugging.

But the New Drill Hall—well, I guess it is wonderful. To me an achievement—of all so many of us worked for in the days when women in the Army was a subject not too popular. The A.A. girls, in their battle dress, able to work and cope with life on a gunsite. That was nothing new to me—I had had over 1,500 such girls in my Group at Bristol in 1941, but now it is peace time and here I found the girls training alongside the men, an integral part of the Regiment.

A smile when we compared the rates of pay then and now. My first week's pay as a warrant officer clerk of 9s. 1d. per week, because we didn't quite know our rates of pay and it was best to be paid the lowest rate than draw the stipulated 7s. 2d. a day for my rank and maybe have to pay it back sometime or other.

To learn that girls get paid when they attend on Sundays and a realisation that at the first A.T.S. camp in 1939 at Malvern, I, as a warrant officer in charge of my own Company with no officer to help me, had acted as W.O. clerk to the whole camp; awakened at 3 a.m., gone to bed at midnight, did all sorts of chores, indeed worked harder than ever in my life, and that at the end of the fifteen days I had been rewarded with a pound note!!!

And what now do I think of the W.R.A.C. as compared with the A.T.S.? Well, I think the W.R.A.C. have got a wonderful opportunity; they are at least accepted by the Regiment, and should war or emergency come, as one hopes and prays they never will again, I am sure the girls I met yesterday at the New Drill Hall will be just as cheerful, just as cheeky, just as helpful, just as full of beans and pep as were the original A.T.S. Any regrets? Well, sure; a big one—the Army is in my blood and it takes a devil of a time to get it out of the bloodstream, I am finding. One girl I did think of—Barbara Bell. If she reads this, I hope she manages to see the new W.R.A.C. training film; I think it will evoke memories for her of Guildford.

MAUREEN LEES.

That Wonderful Sixth Sense?

Scene: The Lounge, West House. Time: Mid-day. In the lead our old friend, Ginger Henderson. Action: Two holiday men anxious to get out for a tonic. Ginger

kindly steps into the breach and volunteers to see them as far as the "Northumberland." The offer being accepted they toddle off, with Ginger tapping the pavement and explaining the landmarks to be used as guides. Eventually his stick taps some boards let into the pavement. "Here we are, yer can allus tell when yer artside the winner and loser (boozer) cause that's where they lets the barrels dahn." They push open the door, take a couple of steps inside; a voice asks what they want. "Three pints," orders Ginger. "This isn't a pub, it's the undertakers," returned the voice. "My Gown, I never thought I'd come here of my own free will, let's get aht of it," says Ginger. "Steady, or you'll knock that coffin down," the voice continues "Let's get aht o' here, let's get aht," returns Ginger. "Now don't panic, I'll see you back to the pub, and I'll pay for the drinks, this calls for a celebration," says the voice. They tumble into the "Northumberland," wisecracking and laughing. The undertaker orders and pays. The landlord, curious at all the hilarity, enquires, and joins in the fun with, "the next round is on me! That's the best I've heard in years."

No doubt the chaps would prefer to pay for their own beer rather than come by it through the medium of such an experience, but the fun got out of such blunders makes them worth while.

T. ROGERS.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review,"
October, 1923

"A gift that will give great pleasure to relays of St. Dunstaners has just been presented to the Brighton Annexe by the Brighton and Hove Radio Society. It consists of a complete wireless set, and the fact that the apparatus was entirely constructed by members of that body gave the gift an enhanced value. The presentation was made in the spacious lounge of Portland House. Captain Fraser went down specially to receive the gift . . . A brief demonstration followed, a loud speaker having been kindly lent by Mr. L. S. Sargeant, of Clarence Garage, Eastern Road. Unfortunately the atmospheric conditions were far from favourable, but the 'funny stories' and music that came through from the London station of the British Broadcasting Corporation were listened to with interest."

A Word about the Deaf St. Dunstaner

Deafness produces a flat, dull and tuneless atmosphere and the deaf man is lonelier than might be imagined—is left to his own mind to guide him, for he hears no encouraging speeches or inspiring sermons, and there is practically nothing written in Braille for the deaf-blind alone. Thus he can easily slip into a spell of minor depression, and there is no unconscious wit or humour or a ripple of laughter to jerk him out of it; too often the person to speak to him at such moments usually says the wrong thing.

His chief object is to fit himself in and avoid unsuitable entertainments and games, which often leads to him being thought unsociable when he is being considerate. He could play whist and bridge, *make no mistake about this*, but it would mean somebody having to tell him what cards the others were playing, and he cannot consult his cards and be spoken to at the same time, so the game would be painfully slow for the hearing members and put *their* pleasure into jeopardy. The hearing blind may take a cup of tea in one hand and cake in the other and chat away over a buffet tea, but there is nothing the deaf man hates more than the balance-it-on-your-knee tea-party, especially when amongst strangers who do not know exactly how to approach him. He prefers to sit at a table so that his hands are free for simple questions, not conversation, for this might lead to someone on the opposite side stretching their arms across and knocking something over.

Good hearing can be put to good use these days, but the deaf St. Dunstaner often sits wasting a good pair of legs owing to lack of escort. He is ready to try anything, and might enjoy the experience of a flight or speedboat trip. Lack of hearing causes him to feel heat, cold and draught more acutely than those who can hear what is going on around them. As a result, he is particular about where he sits and the kind of seat.

He comes into contact with many people and, like other St. Dunstaners, has the stupid and tactless to put up with, and amongst these is the individual who goes to him and tells him to "shut up" because an important announcement is being made, but does not tell him what it is. There is the escort

or "helper" who goes to him after he has been sitting alone for a couple of hours to tell him what a "smashing time" she has had with a hearing man or men. And the person who stops him just as he is going to bed the night before he is going home, and tells him she didn't know he was there or she would have given him such a fine time! His chief enemy or nuisance is the individual who listens to what he is saying to someone else, hearing only one side of the conversation, jumps to conclusions, and goes away to express his opinions instead of going to the deaf man and acquainting himself with all the facts first. Unable to join in much with the hearing blind on the one hand, or the sighted deaf on the other, we fall between two stools. Like other handicapped people, we do not want sympathy, just a little understanding.

"DEAFY."

Liverpool Club Notes

Saturday, September 26th, 1953, is a day to be remembered by all the members of St. Dunstan's Club, Liverpool, who took their place in the coach which carried us to Plessington that afternoon. On the way we picked up other members and had a very delightful drive to our destination, where we were met by Mr. Hindle and members of the Railway Hotel Darts Club, who gave us a very sincere welcome. A wonderful tea was ready for us, prepared by Mrs. Hindle and her helpers, during which our old friend, Bob Brittan, joined us. Photographs were taken, after which darts and dominoes were started and the battle was fast and furious, the St. Dunstan's team winning 7 to 3. A short speech was given by the Chairman thanking Mr. and Mrs. Hindle for their efforts on our behalf and Mr. Lincoln (our vice Chairman) gave a very able speech thanking the darts team for the welcome we had received. This was replied to by the captain. After drink and conversation we were given a great send-off by the assembled crowd, Mr. and Mrs. Hindle, and Bob, to whom we were indebted for the beginning of these very pleasant outings. Unfortunately, one or two were absent for various reasons. We arrived back in good time for trains and buses, having enjoyed every minute of the time.

Thank you again, Bob, and also all of your friends. J. C. OWEN, *Chairman*.

Young St. Dunstaners

Thirteen-year old Sheila Reed, Weybridge, has gained her Third Grade Diploma for Ballet Dancing under the Cecchetti Society Branch of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing.

★ ★ ★

Terry Brooks (Bedford) has been awarded a State Scholarship in Classics—he was the only State Scholar of this year at his school and the only one to have won such a scholarship in the school's long history. After his National Service he hopes to go to St. John's College, Oxford, to read for an Honours Degree in Classics. He left with full colours in water-polo and rugby.

★ ★ ★

Valerie Ellaway (Monmouth) has passed her music examination and secured her Schools Certificate.

★ ★ ★

Brian Hold (Yeovil) has taken over the position of solo euphonium in the local Salvation Army Band, and, with his father, took part in the broadcast that the band made some weeks ago. At fifteen, he is considered a coming musician by well-known brass band critics. Sister Jean is also making a name for herself as an elocutionist.

★ ★ ★

Jean Douglas (Isleworth) has obtained her B.A. degree.

★ ★ ★

Shirley Selby (Seven Kings), who is a probationer sick-berth attendant at the Royal Naval Hospital, Chatham, won three medals at a recent Naval sports meeting; she took the 100 yards Women's Open race, the 220 yards Women's Open, and the 220 yards Open, where she represented the Nore Command.

★ ★ ★

Christine Fisher (Glasgow) has won a scholarship carrying with it books and fees for one year, and has also received a Certificate of Merit for Mathematics. Although she is only fifteen, the Principal of her School has described her as "a mathematical genius." Gerald Fisher, who is an M.A. and an Education Officer in the R.A.F., is at Oxford University studying languages.

★ ★ ★

Ivor Wylie (Bromley) has gained the Higher National Certificate for Mechanical Engineering.

Mr. and Mrs. McCheyne's little daughter, Sylvia, gained 98 marks out of a possible 100 in a recent music examination (piano playing).

★ ★ ★

Terry Wass (Brighton) has passed his General School Certificate in General Science, Biology and Surveying.

★ ★ ★

Brian Rogers (Kingsbridge) has passed his School Certificate in French, European History, Geography, Physics and Woodwork.

Marriages

Peter Whitelam (Westcliff-on-Sea), on September 5th.

In July, Margaret Roughley (Bridlington) to P.C. John Hepworth.

Gordon Dennick (Evesham), on September 5th, to Miss Mavis Day.

A year after the event, the REVIEW has only just heard of the marriage of Reg. Page (Hove) to Miss Audrey Booth, which took place on July 28th, 1952.

Edith Pearson (Prestwich), on August 8th, to Mr. Alfred Higgett.

Also on August 8th, John Alexander (Dalbeattie) to Miss Margaret Oates.

Julia Etherington (Windlesham), on July 11th, to Mr. A. Beckinsale.

Winifred Brewer (Hesketh Bank) was recently married in America to Mr. Klapatoush.

On August 10th, Alice Dickinson, S.R.N. (Southport) to Doctor J. W. Gabrynowicz.

The son of A. J. Woollen, of Leyton, was married on September 5th.

Adam Irvine, Maryhill, Glasgow, on August 29th, to Miss Celia Roberts.

Beryl Denmead, at Portsmouth, on September 25th.

On August 13th, Dorothy Straughton, Workington, to Alan M. Fleming.

On September 26th, Sylvia Green, Whittlesea, near Peterborough.

On September 12th, Lily Lea, Bradford, to Kenneth Spiller.

Grandfathers

T. Jarman, of Bournemouth (four grandchildren during the past six months), total now 12; H. E. Best, also of Bournemouth, another grandchild; J. McNicholls, of Longsight, Manchester.

H. C. Ollington, Earlsfield; T. W. Salter, Battersea; J. B. Hart, Cathays, Cardiff; G. Smith, Guildford.

Number Please

Monday.—This job of switchboard operating is great. Nothing to it. Another four weeks on the dummy board and I will be showing them how to work the live board. Don't know what all the fuss is about. I guess the other trainees are not as smart as I. Dim lot.

Tuesday.—Reported for lesson at Telephone School. Did I hear right or did she say I am going on live board? Oh, 'ell! Oh, dear! Oh, blimey! Stomach rolling, knees knocking. Sit at board, watched by teacher and others. Ah, a call. Mr. Banks wants Com. Put him through to Hall Porter. Miss A. wants to speak to Mrs. B. Let me see, Mrs. B. is extension 4. Let's try extension 5, that's near enough.

Wednesday.—My teacher seemed a bit rattled yesterday. Wonder why? As soon as I've finished this smoke I'll see why those four little shutters are flapping so. First one is Main Office. See no reason for all that bad language. This looks interesting. Escort Office wants to speak to theatre box office. Just for a lark I'll put her on to the local synagogue.

Thursday.—Get Ministry of Pensions for Mr. Banks. Well, well, well. I read this morning that the Minister of Pensions is speaking to-day in the Commons, but I suppose Mr. Banks knows best. Must see what all this horrid buzzing is for. What's that, a long distance from Edinburgh? Damn fool, of course I know it's a long distance from Edinburgh. I'll leave them for a minute or two. Matron wants to speak to Main Office. It's about time somebody spoke to them, bad mannered lot. Now what's all this buzzing about? H.Q. on line. Sir Ian wants to speak to Com. I know Com. likes a joke, so let's be matey and put Sir Ian on to Rugs. This job is a cinch. I wonder what my wages will be? Now on to Sir Ian's line. Ah, that fooled you, Sir Ian, didn't it? I'll give you the Com. now, and if you want him you can keep him. I guess Sir Ian knows how an operator needs a sense of humour. My teacher seems very excited about something. Nearly time for me to go now. I know what I'll do. Clear all the lines and let the next trainee sort that lot out.

Friday.—Can't understand it. Matron tells me I can train for poultry-keeping if I wish.

G. W. ELLIS.

Births

FRASER.—On September 11th, to the wife of Colin Fraser, of Colindale, a daughter—Anne Elizabeth.

GROVES.—On September 29th, to the wife of D. Groves, of Grays, a son—Peter Kenneth.

GUYLER.—On September 24th, to the wife of A. Guyler, of Grays, a son—Anthony.

KEMPE.—On September 29th, to the wife of S. A. Kempe, of Porkellis, near Helston, a daughter—Linda Marie.

KELLY.—On October 7th, to the wife of W. P. Kelly, of Workington, a son—Ronald William.

STENT.—On October 6th, to the wife of E. L. Stent, of Liverpool, twin daughters—Rhona and Lesley.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy is extended to the following:—

BLAKELEY.—To Mr. and Mrs. Blakeley, of Liverpool, whose daughter, Mrs. Snape, has died after the birth of her baby.

JACKSON.—To J. Jackson, of Patcham, whose eldest sister has died.

SPARKES.—To Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Sparkes, of Grimsby, whose son has died after a very short illness. He leaves a widow and three little daughters.

Marriage

ANDERSON—GREEN.—On October 3rd, Roderick Anderson (lately of Holloway), to Mrs. Florence Green, of Middlesbrough.

Personal

Mrs. J. P. Dixon and her family offer very sincere thanks to the officials of St. Dunstan's and members of the Manchester Club, and to all who have so kindly sent expressions of sympathy in their recent loss. They know the great store of happiness which Mr. Dixon derived from St. Dunstan's and the many friendships which resulted from his membership.

* * *

To new St. Dunstaners.—In December, 1950, I sent a copy of my little book, "Sons of Victory," to all my comrades of St. Dunstan's, everywhere. There must be a number of young St. Dunstaners who have joined our ranks since then, and I shall be indeed happy to send a copy post free upon receiving a post card bearing your name and address. Good health and good luck to you all—and post your cards to Alan Nichols, Rose Bungalow, 97 Mile Oak Road, Upper Portslade, Sussex.

“In Memory”

Private Albert Charles John Grant, *2nd Royal West Surrey Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. C. J. Grant, of Littlehampton. He was nearly 72. After discharge from the Army in November, 1917, he came to St. Dunstan's for a short time in 1920 and was readmitted in 1943. He bred rabbits first and later had a shop, but returned later to a limited country life settlement with his rabbits and hens. He also worked at handicrafts.

He died on September 30th, leaving a widow to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

A wreath of poppies in the form of our badge from Sir Ian Fraser was sent for the funeral.

Rifleman George Lidbetter, *8th City of London Post Office Rifles*

We record with deep regret the death of G. Lidbetter, of Brighton, at the age of 55.

He left the Army in September, 1919, and came to us in July, 1934, when he trained as a basket maker, and he continued with this almost to the time of his admittance to West House sick ward in March of this year. He died on September 28th.

Wreaths from Sir Ian Fraser, and from his Brighton friends, were among the flowers at the funeral, which took place at Brighton Crematorium and was attended by Mr. and Mrs. Millward, and Mr. Markwick, Miss Lindo and Lady Hopkinson.

Our very sincere sympathy goes out to Mrs. Lidbetter.

Private Victor Sanders, *7th City of London Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of V. Sanders, of Crediton, which occurred at the Ovingdean Home on October 6th. He was 61.

He came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1949, but owing to his age and state of health, he was not able to train, apart from a little string bag work. He was admitted to hospital in August and on his discharge at the beginning of September, he went to Ovingdean, where he died.

We offer our deep sympathy to his widow.

Sir Ian's wreath of poppies was sent for the funeral, which was attended by St. Dunstaners and members of the staff, and representatives of the R.A.O.B.

Rifleman Reginald Alfred Inskipp, *3rd Rifle Brigade*

With deep regret we record the death of R. A. Inskipp, of Westcliff-on-Sea. He died on October 11th at the age of 58.

“Sambo,” as he was known to all his St. Dunstan's friends, first came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1915. He was therefore one of the first sixteen St. Dunstaners. He later trained in netting and typewriting.

The funeral took place at Prittlewell and Sir Ian's poppy wreath was among the flowers.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Sambo's widow.

W. L. G. Armstrong, T. Davies and R. W. Etchells, *Australian Forces*

We have heard with deep regret of the deaths of three Australians—W. L. G. Armstrong, of Cranbrook, Western Australia; T. Davies, of Darlinghurst, New South Wales; and R. W. Etchells, of Randwick, New South Wales. The last-named did not come to St. Dunstan's but were on our Overseas list.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to their relatives.

Thomas Ernest Clarke, *Royal Marines Band*

Those St. Dunstaners who knew him will learn with deep regret of the sudden death of T. E. Clarke, at Worthing. His death follows that of his wife (Miss Drury) in April of this year.

“Nobby,” who had lost his sight while serving in the Royal Marines Band in 1910, came to the notice of Sir Arthur Pearson and in 1921, after training as a shorthand typist, was transferred to the Appeals Staff of St. Dunstan's. He was still a member of the staff at his death, although he had been working from his home at Worthing for some time previously.

A wreath of poppies from Sir Ian was among the flowers at the funeral. Cremation was at Brighton and “Nobby's” ashes were later scattered on the Sussex Downs.

The Blind in British E. Africa

Sir Clutha Mackenzie has just completed a survey of the blind population in British East Africa undertaken at the request of the British Empire Society for the Blind. Sir Clutha estimates that about one in every 200 in that area is blind.

Mr. Alex. Mackay, recently appointed Regional Adviser to assist the work for the blind throughout these territories, has arrived in Uganda.

Guess Who?

Answers to the queries on page 4.

1. House Steward.
2. Catering Officer.
3. Largish female member (anonymous).
4. Habitual attenders—late buffet.
5. Kitchen staff.
6. Liftman.
7. Escort Sister.
8. Linen Room staff.
9. Cashier.
10. Commandant.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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LIBRARY

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

DURING September and October, I spent some weeks in South Africa on the business of my family companies and I was able also to include a number of St. Dunstan's engagements. Lady Fraser and I attended receptions at Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London, Durban, Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, and Maseru, where we met St. Dunstaners and their families, as well as members of the South African Committee, Mayors and other officials. St. Dunstan's (South Africa) is an independent organisation operating in sympathy with us, and we have a long tradition of friendly co-operation which is, I think, fostered by these visits and the many personal contacts we have made.

St. Dunstan's is extremely well thought of in the Union and the St. Dunstan's Committee look after the St. Dunstan's family there very well indeed.

Air Commodore and Mrs. G. B. Dacre, who were also visiting the Union, attended some of the receptions and they visited Pietermaritzburg on our behalf. Lady Fraser also attended and spoke at a morning tea party in Bloemfontein.

Many South African St. Dunstaners are old and have now retired. There are, however, many actively employed as physiotherapists, telephone operators, etc., and there is a university lecturer, a doctor, a parson, and a small number of farmers and shop-keepers.

It was not easy for anyone to take the place of our very dear friend, Mrs. Bates, but Mrs. G. I. Swan, M.B.E., has now been in office for several months and is rapidly winning the confidence of St. Dunstaners, Committee members, and the South African public.

I gave the best wishes of St. Dunstaners in the Old Country, and South African St. Dunstaners in turn asked me to convey their greetings to their many friends in Britain.

Mr. Percy Way

St. Dunstan's physiotherapists will learn with deep regret of the death of Mr. Percy L. Way, M.B.E., F.R.C.O., F.C.S.P., at the age of 71. Mr. Way was for thirty-one years Principal of the National Institute for the Blind's School of Physiotherapy. He retired in 1947.

Mr. W. T. Scott, a member of St. Dunstan's Physiotherapy Advisory Committee, and Miss E. Goole, Secretary of the Committee, attended the funeral on November 11th.

My most vivid early memory of Percy Way was his great reputation for walking about alone, fearlessly, although totally blind. This impressed me and, I am sure, many others. I then remember probably in 1919 or 1920, calling upon his technical advice and wise

judgment when I was seeking to equip the masseurs of those days with the requisite knowledge and apparatus to enable them to undertake medical electricity as an addition to their treatments. The great development in this field which has enabled our physiotherapists to do this work with such skill and success was largely due to arrangements we then made, and we are deeply indebted to Percy Way, as well as to Dr. Murray Levick and Dr. Bailey, who advised and encouraged us when so many others were doubtful about our capacity.

Practically all the first war physiotherapists and a number of the younger generation will remember Percy Way as the one who not only taught them their science and art, but also helped them greatly to conquer the early difficulties of blindness. IAN FRASER.

Remembrance Festival

The Royal Albert Hall, London, was filled on Saturday, November 7th, when ex-Servicemen and women from all over the country gathered to pay homage to the memory of those who lost their lives in the two world wars. St. Dunstaners were among those present; hundreds of others followed the ceremony by means of radio or television commentaries.

Sir Ian Fraser, President of the British Legion, received Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and Princess Margaret.

Remembrance Day

St. Dunstaners and Old Contemptibles joined the British Legion Veterans' Parade at the Cenotaph in Whitehall on the following day, Sunday, November 8th. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the British Legion and St. Dunstan's blinded ex-Servicemen and women throughout the world.

In Belfast, St. Dunstan's wreath was laid at the Cenotaph on behalf of Irish St. Dunstaners by Mr. Bill Rutledge.

From Miss Pain

I want to thank you all for your good wishes and to say how much they meant to me in my illness. I am wonderfully well now and send you all the best of good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Dorothy Pain.

Golden Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. I. Davidson, of Cheadle Hulme, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on October 31st, and to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Denny, of South Africa, whose anniversary was on November 24th.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. C. Millington, Blackpool, October 17th. Congratulations.

Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Service

On the morning of Wednesday, December 9th, the thirty-second anniversary of the death of our Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson, a party of St. Dunstaners will go from Headquarters to Hampstead Cemetery, where a wreath will be placed upon Sir Arthur's grave.

Subscriptions of not more than one shilling towards the wreath should be sent to Mr. Askew, at 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1.

A Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, December 13th, at the Ovingdean Chapel, at 11.15 a.m. It will be a combined Service for St. Dunstaners at Ovingdean and West House, and for St. Dunstaners living in the Brighton area. Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., will read the Lesson at the Service, which will be conducted by the Rev. Dennis Pettit (St. Dunstan), and the Rev. W. J. Taylor.

Decorated

Two St. Dunstaners who were in the recent Honours List received their decorations during the month of October.

Mr. S. C. Tarry attended Buckingham Palace on October 27th when the Queen bestowed upon him the M.B.E. (Civil Division), and on the 23rd Mr. Jock Macfarlane's B.E.M. was presented to him by the Controller of his Department, Mr. R. H. Owen, C.M.G. Three ex-Controllers—Sir Frank Nixon, Sir Ernest Adams and Mr. Somerville Smith, C.M.G., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., were among those present to see Mac honoured.

The next evening Mac went to the B.B.C., where he appeared in "In Town To-night."

London Club Notes

The Annual General Meeting of the London Club will be held on Friday, January 15th, 1954, at the Club.

Make a note of this date.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge.—We played three matches during the past month. On October 3rd, we had a match with the Post Office which we won, and on the 10th we played Mr. Gellatly's team and lost. On October 24th we won our match against the Air Ministry.

Ilkley, in Yorkshire, held their eighth Annual Bridge Congress in aid of St. Dunstan's at the end of the month. A team from our Club was invited and in one event, managed to get into the final. We believe this is the only Bridge Congress for charity to be held in the country.

In the London Business Houses League, we again have two teams entered. Paul Nuyens' team has to date played four matches, winning two and losing two, and Tiny Fleming's team has won one and lost two.

Outdoor Section

On October 17th we started our walking season again with our Annual Five Mile Race. This turned out to be a great success for we had a record field of fifteen starters, including three from Birmingham, L. Kibler, D. Faulkner and G. Bilcliff, who braved the weather and had a good race. We invited the Metropolitan Police to have a match with us and after a hard struggle we were beaten by 27 points to 33. Our first men home were W. Miller, C. Williamson and A. Brown. Our newcomer, F. Madgewick, carried off the first handicap prize, Kibler the second and Tutton the third. The times and placings of the field are given below.

We are still looking forward to seeing new faces, so come along and let us have a field of twenty for the Seven Miles in December. Come and win a prize for your wife at Christmas. It is a most enjoyable sport and you can train from Holme House, Regent's Park every Tuesday evening. Contact Billy Miller for any further details. Perivale 6401 (work), or Perivale 0452 (home).

Mr. Galloway, who started our race and presented the prizes, has kindly offered to present the Club with a cup for the Twelve Mile Race.

W. MILLER.

St. Dunstan's Five Mile Walk and Match with Metropolitan Police Regent's Park, Saturday 17th Oct., 1953

Order of Finish	Team	Actual Time	H'cp All.	H'cp Time	H'cp Pos.
1.	MacFarlane	Met. P.	44-31	—	—
2.	Deamon	"	44-40	—	—
3.	W. Miller	St. D's	45-12	Scr.	45-12 6
4.	Wilson	Met. P.	46-12	—	—
5.	C. Williamson	St. D's	46-19	-30	45-49 10
6.	Fotheringham	Met. P.	46-38	—	—
7.	A. Brown	St. D's	46-48	-20	46-28 12
8.	T. Gaygan	"	47-23	-45	46-38 13
9.	Wardman	Met. P.	48-26	—	—
10.	S. Tutton	St. D's	48-32	4-00	44-32 3
11.	D. Fleisig	"	48-40	3-55	44-45 4
12.	P. Cryan	"	49-14	4-00	45-14 7
13.	A. Bradley	"	49-36	3-40	45-56 11
14.	C. Stafford	"	50-06	5-20	44-46 5
15.	L. Dennis	"	50-50	4-10	46-40 14
16.	G. Bilcliff	"	52-05	6-30	45-35 9
17.	D. Faulkner	"	52-06	6-50	45-16 8
18.	F. Madgewick	"	53-22	10-45	42-37 1
19.	L. Kibler	"	53-49	11-00	42-49 2
20.	J. Lynch	"	59-20	12-00	47-20 15

Winners of Handicap:

1st: F. Madgewick.

2nd: L. Kibler.

3rd: S. Tutton.

Fastest Loser: W. Miller.

Result of Match:

1st: Met. Police — 22 points.

2nd: St. Dunstan's — 33 points.

Handicapper and Timekeeper: Mr. W. J. Harris.

Letter from Mary

The Appeals Department of St. Dunstan's receives thousands of letters in the course of a year—letters of admiration, sympathy and encouragement. The following came recently from a little girl living at Hove. It is printed exactly as it was received, written on a sheet of child's notepaper.

Dear St. Dunstan's,

we had a fete in the garden one Saturday. We had a garden seat we put balls on it and you had to knock a ball off. If you did you had an apple and a pear. there was a raffle for a pot of mummy's honey. there were lot of other things as well. everything you had a go at you paid 2d. we got all-togeth 10/- we took 5/- to the brownies and we want you to have the other.

Love from

MARY JOLLY.

Placements

A. A. Howell, of Kingsbury, as a capstan operator with Messrs. DeSoutter Bros., of Hendon; and H. Webster, of Manchester, as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. B. J. J. Silcombe, Ltd., Farnworth.

The London Reunion

It was a new-style London Reunion which took place this year on Wednesday, October 28th, for it took the form of a Dinner, and it was held for the first time in the Windsor Room of the Coventry Street Corner House.

If the gathering was smaller, it only made it much easier to find friends, and as one St. Dunstaner said, "I met more old pals at this reunion than I have met at all the others put together."

Sir Neville Pearson, our President, introduced Sir Ian Fraser in a brief, amusing speech, and Sir Ian, as briefly, replied. Among the guests present were Lady Pearson and Lady Fraser, and a surprise visitor who came with Sir Neville—Mrs. Aitken, his elder sister, who will be better remembered by early St. Dunstaners as Mrs. Pansy Lipscombe.

Miss Pain was representative of many old friends and there were new ones too. Congratulations were extended to Miss Wood, London Visitor, and to Mr. C. D. Wills, Welfare Superintendent, on the occasion of his first London Reunion.

Dinner—at small tables all round the floor—was followed by dancing to a new band—Ronny Bell's.

The Reunion was, as Sir Ian said, a special Reunion in a very special year—a fitting climax to a series of most successful Coronation meetings.

Personal

Gerry Brereton, the St. Dunstan's Royal Command singer, is forming a British Blind Golfers' Association, and he asks all St. Dunstan's men who are interested in the game to contact him at his home address at 1, Deansbrook Road, Edgware.

Jock Macfarlane thanks all kind friends who have telephoned or written to him congratulating him upon his recent honour.

Maureen Lees, now Editor of the Cheshire Guild of Handloom Weavers' News Sheet, writes:

"My new workshop is an old coach-house immediately behind 52 Hamilton Square, Birkenhead. I will be pleased to show anyone round if they will ring me the evening previous at Rock Ferry 4851. In the New Year I plan to take one or two pupils in handloom weaving, warping, etc., with special reference to the needs of blind

and disabled weavers. This is not a subsidised effort.

"Does any St. Dunstaner know where and how I can borrow some films on weaving, spinning, dyeing, etc.? And a projector?"

We Hear That—

Bill Lacey, of Edmonton, was on St. Dunstan's stand at the War Disabled Ex-Servicemen's exhibition in London. He was photographed with members of the Royal Family and was also on television. A copy of his Coronation song, "Elizabeth, Hello!" was shown to the Queen Mother and presented to her.

Bill McCaw, one of the All Blacks visiting this country, was godfather to Stuart Craig's little daughter, Isobel Ann, at her christening on October 25th. Bill and Stuart are old rugby rivals.

The annual party in Manchester given by Mrs. Jackson, in memory of her son, was a very happy affair. A short report by Jim Shaw appears elsewhere. Unfortunately many of the two hundred St. Dunstaners to whom she wrote did not reply to Mrs. Jackson's kind invitation, which was very disappointing. The party was therefore extended to the civilian blind and to other disabled people.

A long letter about life at the Training Centre appeared in a Rhyl newspaper from W. R. Evans, who has been living at Ovingdean temporarily.

On November 9th, Bill Harding, of Finsbury Park, started his 35th year with his firm. Can anyone beat this?

J. H. Nicol has become Chairman of Hebburn Conservative Municipal Committee.

There was a great gathering of guide dog owners at Oxford on October 14th, to celebrate Captain Liakhoff's twenty years' service with the Association, and a number of St. Dunstaners were present. An excellent speech was made by A. V. Law, of Stockton-on-Tees. The occasion, however, was marred somewhat for Tony, when he found that his raincoat and pig-skin gloves had disappeared from the cloakroom when he went to collect them.

Courage, Fear and Cowardice

There has been a great deal of discussion recently, both in the Press and on the Radio, on the subject of courage, fear and cowardice, and a great deal of interest and feeling has been aroused on the subject. Various points of view have been put forward, and, I think, the subject has been discussed in a sympathetic and reasonable manner.

I wonder, however, if it is realized, how closely linked these three are? Is it generally recognized that where there is no fear there can be no courage? It is not regarded as courage by thinking people, when a person goes recklessly into danger without a full appreciation of what he is up against; such an act is rightly regarded as folly, and foolhardiness. The highest form of courage is shown, I think, when the dangers and risks are fully appreciated, when there is a natural fear, and, when one goes on in spite of that fear. Of course, this does not only apply in war, or in events such as fires, or pit disasters; it occurs in many aspects of life.

There are many kinds of courage, as there are many kinds of fear. The people of this country faced up to the terror of the bombs in a manner which astounded the world, but they also had to stand up to things which were less spectacular and obvious, but which were in their way, a greater strain.

In addition to the fear of injury or death, there are fears which some people never experience, and which they cannot understand in others. A self-conscious person can suffer mental agonies, often unknown to anyone but himself. A blind or badly injured or disfigured person, is often very self-conscious, and is fighting a battle against this unseen, but nevertheless, very real enemy, all his life.

Sometimes there is a complete absence of fear in circumstances where it would be most likely to appear. I hope that I may be forgiven for quoting a personal experience of this. I was severely wounded in 1915 and, at the time, thought I was going to die. I was fully conscious, and felt the tourniquets being applied to my arms, and was talking to those who were with me. It is strange that I had no fear, but only a great calmness and a sense of peace. This was not due to morphia, as none had been given to me then; nor do I attribute the lack of fear to any courage came over me; there was no question of

conquering fear. There is, no doubt, an explanation of this, and countless others must have had a similar experience.

St. D's have done much for me since I joined them last year, but what I appreciate most of all, is the comradeship of so many wonderful people, both men and women. Courage at St. D's is commonplace, it is taken for granted, but fear there is understood, recognized, and not just dismissed with a word of scorn. Fear has its place in the scheme of things, and is not to be treated lightly. The Bible tells us that "Perfect love casteth out fear," and it is in this spirit that the work of St. D's is carried out.

Cowardice is a much more difficult thing to define and deal with. A man may be courageous in most things, and yet may be obsessed with a blind, unreasoning fear about others; for instance, fear of heights is a weakness which some people can never overcome, however hard they may try. Such a feeling cannot be regarded as cowardice; the weakness is constitutional, and it is beyond one's powers to defeat. There are many other kinds of fear in this category, and we should not be too ready to brand as cowards people who give way to fear in certain circumstances. Cowardice in fear of the enemy has to be dealt with severely for obvious reasons, but I thank God that it is not I who has to try a man who is faced with such a charge. C. T. KELK.

Young St. Dunstaners

John Mudge's son, who is with the Eastern Bank, flew to Bahrein in the Persian Gulf on November 17th. He will be working overseas for four years.

Kenneth Greenwood, of Worthing, has passed his B.A. Examination at Cambridge.

Pamela Carlton (Morecambe) who is eight, has gained a first class certificate for piano at the London College of Music, preparatory grade.

Maureen Elizabeth Allen, Aldershot, attended the Horse of the Year Show held at Harringay, and was one of sixteen chosen out of one hundred to enter for the Activity Ride with the Hants Hunt Pony Club. She is fourteen.

We learn from a newspaper cutting that the son of our late St. Dunstaner, F. Eastwood, of Middlesbrough, is a most promising footballer. He played for Middlesbrough for the English Schools Shield and scored one of the winning goals.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

While I hasten to applaud the obviously self-appreciative letter of Mr. Stewart Spence, I cannot fail to appreciate the disdainful touch that writes off the writers of other letters and articles in the REVIEW as unable to rise to his own, and Mr. Oriel's, journalistic achievements. As I am a product of World War I, who was discharged direct to St. Dunstan's without having to endure gnawing pangs that must have accompanied the years during which sight gradually failed, I also inwardly applauded John Oriel's courage in commencing a new life at fifty. I wondered whether I at fifty would have been as keen to make the necessary readjustments as I was at twenty-eight, and had to confess that I would not. Probably the intervening years of good sight, and the probable hope also that it would never completely fail, created a different psychological approach to the question of facing the world without sight, while the joy of discovering that he could still be trained to re-enter the normal industrial world must have given an added zest to his determination to begin that new life.

Mr. Spence must remember, however, that the vast majority of the 1914-1918 men were not "rehabilitated" for a new life in the industrial, commercial or professional world. We were trained as home-workers, except the comparatively small number whose disabilities did not prevent them from taking up shorthand-typing, telephony, and massage, now dignified by the title of physiotherapy. Therefore to most the real purpose of life was to overcome the disability inflicted by war, and also to overcome the terrible sense of isolation that even the busiest of home-workers feels. Why then should they not look to the REVIEW as the organ for their individual and collective efforts? They do not write to air their literary ability. They wrote and still write in order that they may feel that they are in touch with their friends, who were all launched along this new trail of activity in the days of "The House," "The College," and "The Bungalow." Scrutinising REVIEWS of past years, I cannot find any instance where anybody wanted it to be anything different to what it was intended to be—a review of activities that would stimulate and support others.

Thanks to my proficiency in braille, I passed the Cambridge correspondence course of Journalism, but I only seek to air my journalistic attainments in other columns, and I pride myself that I have probably received more rejection slips than any other product of St. Dunstan's, but I also take pride in the one thousand or so articles and essays that have appeared in print and have been carefully filed by the hands of my daughter in a book that is shortly to be published.

No, I do not think that the letters and articles submitted to REVIEW are nostalgic. I think that the experiences of John Oriel are interesting, and would have been equally interesting had they been written less fluently. He had a tale he wished to tell, a gratitude he wished to express, a new feeling of comradeship that he wished to explain, but please remember that John Oriel's experience was unique; the experience of the hundreds of men in training between 1915 and 1921 were identical.

Yours sincerely,

Castle Cary.

A. J. RADFORD.

DEAR EDITOR,

So far I have not contributed one line to the correspondence columns of the St. Dunstan's REVIEW because I did not feel that I had anything interesting or amusing to write about.

Mr. Stewart Spence's letter printed on the front page of the October REVIEW forces me to take the cover off my beloved typewriter and clear the decks for action.

There are, my dear Mr. Spence, two kinds of literary and dramatic criticism. One is a constructive criticism. The other, which is by far the easiest to dish out, is the destructive criticism.

Apart from John A. Oriel's excellent effort in the September issue, there does not seem to be very much that pleases you in our magazine. Your letter suggests that the only items that are really worth reading are our Chairman's Notes, "Nelson's" Talking Book review, and an occasional letter from George Ellis and Jock Macfarlane.

Oh dear, oh dear! Are you being quite fair, Stewart? I do not think so, sir.

Personally I think our little magazine is crammed full of items of interest to all of us. The literary style of some of the correspondents does not interest me in the least. It is what they have to say that

Letters to the Editor (continued)

DEAR EDITOR,

May I be allowed to give Mr. Ettridge a few facts about his letter of protest with regard to our disability pension.

(a) The British Legion have attacked all Governments on the question of war pensions and can never be accused of entering into party politics.

(b) The British Legion have always been of the opinion that war pensions should be above the whims of party politics and be left to the individual conscience of our Members of Parliament.

(c) The British Legion has no representation in the House of Commons, but several Branch Members who are M.P.'s on both sides of the House.

(d) In the West Riding County of Yorkshire during 1951-52, one hundred and fifty pensions campaign meetings were held, in addition to hundreds of branch meetings, to create public opinion and support for the basic rate of war pensions to be increased, and this campaign took place in all the other counties as well, which resulted in a deputation meeting the then Minister of Pensions.

(e) The British Legion are launching another special Pensions Campaign this month and once again we are seeking the support of every war-disabled man and woman, and the public, in our struggle to raise the basic rate to 98s. a week, and so, my friend, will you and all my colleagues take an active part in this campaign and discuss disability pensions whenever you get the opportunity. Yours sincerely,
Leeds. ERNEST RUSSELL.

Manchester Club Notes

During recent weeks there has been a promising increase in the attendance of members at Club meetings and at other functions.

In connection with outside functions to which members and escorts have been invited, we have to place on record our appreciation of the kindness of the British Synthetic Rubber Company Social Club, of Old Trafford, in arranging for games, entertainment and refreshments, at their Institute on September 18th. Many of our members attended this function and carried away prizes for dominoes and darts.

We have also to express our thanks to Mrs. E. J. Jackson, of Longsight, for the

party given at the Conservative Club, Longsight, on the 21st October. This has been an annual occasion in memory of her son, who was killed whilst serving in the Royal Air Force. At this function we were joined by members of BLESMA, and a number of civilian blind persons. After tea, the whole company was engaged in pulling crackers and the singing of popular choruses reminiscent of the two war periods. The principal entertainment, however, came from the twenty-one boys of the Alabama Junior Minstrels, who amazed their audience by the excellence of their performances.

On behalf of the Club members, the Chairman expressed thanks to Mrs. Jackson for her invitation and in presenting to her a bouquet of pink and red carnations, extended good wishes and many happy returns of her birthday, which she would celebrate the following day.

By the time St. Dunstaners read their November REVIEW, those of them who live within a reasonable distance of Manchester will have received a letter from the Club Chairman, with the unanimous approval of the Committee, explaining the position regarding membership and the Club's meeting place.

Briefly, it is felt that the Red Cross House, Pendleton, may not be very convenient for many St. Dunstaners to get to and from, and also that Friday evening may not provide the most convenient opportunity to get to the Club. Consideration has been given to securing an alternative meeting place near to the centre of Manchester which might be more convenient to most "local" St. Dunstaners and would enable very many more to take part in the Club's activities, especially if it could be arranged to meet on Saturday afternoons, which it is anticipated may be possible.

These proposals would, however, only be justified if the Committee could be assured of a considerably increased membership, and this note is especially intended to reach all potential members to assure them of interesting games, competitions, parties, outings and good fellowship, all of which are features of the Club and available to members.

The Committee hopes that all those who possibly can will take the decision now to join the Club. It is worth while to do so.

J. SHAW, *Chairman.*

I Kill a Yellowtail

"Yellowtail," cries the lookout man, a Cape coloured seaman, and he points to a position two or three hundred yards on the starboard bow where the seagulls are 'working.' The skipper at the controls opens his throttle and the power boat, an old ex-naval vessel of 25 tons and 60ft. long, thrusts her nose forward at increasing speed. If fishes hear or feel the throb of the big diesels, as the scientists say they do, they are not afraid, for as we near the spot where the gulls are diving, picking up small fry, Vic, our host, says he can see one or two fins. "Throw in some ground bait," he says, and some hundreds of sardines, each five or six inches long are cast overboard.

"Spinners get to work," he shouts, and two or three men cast heavy spinners made of white metal, two or three inches long, into the water which is now boiling with fish. The naval officer who is one of the guests and is describing the scene to me, says that a particularly skilled angler standing on the cabin roof has cast a hundred yards. The ground bait, and the spinners racing towards the boat as the geared wheels are turned, are said to attract the fish.

My companion hands me a rod, 8 or 10ft. long, made of drawn glass fibre with a nylon line of 30lbs. breaking strain, at the end of which is a hook $\frac{3}{4}$ in. across baited with a sardine. The rod is fitted with a geared reel for quick winding and a slipping clutch so that the fish can take the line with a predetermined amount of tension on it. My sardine has only been out a few seconds when I am into a fish, and in spite of the break on the reel he takes out many yards of line with a mighty lunge. Within a few minutes five anglers are into fish and although they are well distributed, there is some risk of crossed lines, but this is avoided. The Cape coloured skipper has lashed his wheel and left his engines ticking over and he dances around with a 5ft. long gaff and with great skill the fish are brought aboard one by one, but not until the angler has let his fish have much line and played him and tired him out, which may take 5 or 10 minutes. "Yours is a 12 or 14 pounder," says Vic. Air Commodore Dacre got a similar one on the other side of the boat. Now the climax is over for the time being.

The birds have stopped working, the shoal have gone. We all have a cup of morning tea, a universal South African custom.

The Yellowtail, or Albacore, belongs to the mackerel family and has been known to reach 90lbs. in South African waters; but this is rare and a fish of 20 lbs. is considered a good specimen. They come in from the ocean in late September or early October, and the moment the birds are seen working, many boats, large and small, will be out while other anglers spin for them from the rocks.

False Bay, 20 miles across and 30 miles deep, with Muizenberg at its base and the Naval Base of Simonstown on its right flank, is full of them. The Yellowtail is a beautiful silvery creature with a yellow plimsoll line and a yellow tail. He is moderately good to eat.

While we eat lunch, a partridge each in the fingers—Jack, another guest, says he shot them with a pistol—we cruise round Seal Island, a few acres in extent. This island is covered with guano, the concentrated droppings of penguins and other sea birds, and it smells like it. Once a year Malays and coloureds go out to harvest this guano, otherwise the island is left to the seals and birds whose lives are protected by law. As we passed, three or four hundred seals were sitting on the rocks or diving into the water, and the bulls were making loud noises which sounded like the deep bark of large dogs, showing-off to their harem of cows.

A Sundowner with the Admiral, Commander-in-Chief South Atlantic, who had asked Vic to take us out, concluded a thrilling day.

The inevitable photographer was on board. "Hold the fish as far forward as possible," he said, "they will look bigger in the picture." I. F.

Stop Press

From the "Radcliffe Times" we learn that T. Partington, who for years has been an enthusiastic British Legion worker, has been unanimously elected a life member of the Radcliffe Branch, of which he is also a Founder Member.

* * *

W. R. Freeman, of Hanham, gained eight first prizes and several seconds for his chrysanthemums at local shows, and the Silver Bowl for the best vase of cut flowers at the annual show of the Bristol Guild of Blind Gardeners.

Ovingdean Notes

The Autumn Long Week-end Deaf Reunion was held at Ovingdean towards the end of October and is shortly to be followed by the Bridge and Chess Week-ends.

A varied programme of entertainments was arranged for the Reunion and, the weather being on our side, the men were able to get out and about as much as they wished. An all day outing to the Isle of Wight was arranged for Friday, 23rd October, and after an enjoyable lunch at Spencers Inn, Ryde, our party was taken out to Bembridge to be shown round the Boat-building Yard, where they spent an interesting hour or so. On Saturday they were delighted that Sir Neville and Lady Pearson came down to Brighton to have tea with them at Ovingdean, and the evening was taken up with a Domino Tournament.

A visit to West House always forms part of the programme of a Deaf Reunion, and on Saturday the men were welcomed down there to join in a Games Tournament and were entertained to tea and supper.

No set programme was organised for Monday and so some of the men thought it would be a nice idea to go along to Brighton Cemetery to place some flowers on the grave of their old friend Wally Ruddock, and this they did. In the afternoon Mr. Wills visited Ovingdean and had tea with the Reunion party, and that evening the "farewell dinner" was held at "The Sussex Pad," Shoreham, where, thanks to the efforts of the manager and his wife, everyone had an excellent meal and a most enjoyable evening.

We hope they all enjoyed themselves and if any have thoughts for future Reunion programmes, we do hope they will let us know about them in good time so that, if at all possible, they can be included next time.

Darts

On September 16th, the Darts Team, consisting of both trainees and holiday men at Ovingdean, were entertained at "The Shipwright Arms," Southwick. The vote of thanks for a splendid evening was proposed by J. E. Summers who said how much the generous hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson and their patrons was appreciated by the Team.

Later that same month the team visited "The George Inn," at Steyning, where they again had a most enjoyable evening.

On this occasion a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Finlay and their hosts was proposed by Charlie Thomas, and later, with J. Walker at the piano, he contributed several songs to the evening's entertainment.

Shooting

The Rifle Range remains as popular as ever, and throughout the Term a number of Knock-Out Competitions have been arranged and have been very well supported by both trainees and St. Dunstaners here on holiday. In the October/November competition no fewer than 39 entered. There was a surprise in store for everyone too, for Dickie Brett "knocked out" George Killingbeck. In the competition, which incidentally was his first, Dickie never scored less than 46 against all his opponents, and in the Quarter-finals he scored 48 against Alan Dean's 46, in the Semi-finals he scored 48 plus 1 against Johnny Walker's 46, and in the Finals reached a score of 48 plus 1 against George Killingbeck's 46 plus 2. Congratulations Dickie!

From Miss Vaughan-Davies

DEAR FRIENDS,

The handsome wireless set has now arrived and been fitted. I have tested the tone and quality, but before I make constant use of it I feel I must express my deeply felt appreciation for the gift.

The many parting and home-making gifts—not forgetting the much admired 556 elephants—are constant reminders of my St. Dunstaner friends and their wives. The wireless brings companionship, as I can so well imagine you listening-in in your own homes and at the St. Dunstan's Homes.

Several St. Dunstaner friends and their wives have climbed to "mount an' avarest." I have been delighted to welcome them at No. 8 and shall always be happy to greet any of you.

May I take this opportunity to wish to you and your families a truly happy Christmas-tide and New Year. I am afraid I cannot contact so many personally as in the past (over six hundred last year), but I shall be happy to hear from you.

Thank you again for your gifts—and thank you for the privilege of serving you for thirty-two happy years.

May God grant you "safe journeyings."

Your affectionate friend,

BETTY VAUGHAN-DAVIES.

8 Dunes House, St. Annes-on-the-Sea.

Gone with the Dog

Far be it from me to plunge into any controversy about white sticks, but stimulated or unabashed by the letter in the last REVIEW, and without any aspirations towards enhancing the literary standard of this publication, I thought I might have a bash.

As I have experimented both with a guide dog and a white stick, it might be said that I had enjoyed the best of both worlds, to say nothing of walking with a plain stick on occasion.

The trouble about a guide dog is that he takes all the limelight. While out walking, you overhear a lady say, "Isn't he wonderful?" When you are about to bow your acknowledgments, you suddenly realise that she means the dog and not you. Or perhaps she says, "Isn't he beautiful?" It is so long since I saw myself that I might think at first that she means me, but no, it is the dog again.

Now, nobody makes flattering remarks about a white stick, so the compliments of passers-by must be meant for me. Moreover, with a white stick one gets many offers of help, sometimes too many. The other day, when walking towards my home, I took a turning to the right. I heard the unmistakable tap of a lady's heels coming rapidly behind me and a somewhat breathless voice said, "Do you know where you are going, Mr. Chambers?" If I had thought of it in time, I suppose the right answer would have been, "It doesn't matter, Madam, if it is the way you are going."

On my last visit to Brighton, I was waiting for friends by the Palace Pier, white stick in hand. Someone said, "Do you want to go anywhere?" A few moments later another voice said, "Are you blind?" On pleading guilty to the soft impeachment, the voice continued, "Are you spiritually blind?" Gripping my stick and taking a deep breath, I replied, "I hope not. Are you?" The answer was, "Ah! There is a bit of antagonism there. Do you smoke?" I said hopefully that I did, and held out my hand. Then I was tapped on the shoulder. "Give it up. Obey Christ." All I could gasp was, "Look here, what do you call yourself?" But alas! the encounter came to an abrupt end. The voice faded away. Yes. White sticks can have their uses if only one is quick enough. S. A. CHAMBERS.

Births

MCCARTNEY.—On October 17th, to the wife of H. McCartney, of Belfast, a daughter—Patricia.

SLEE.—On October 19th, to the wife of J. D. Slee, of Penrith, a son.

Marriage

REEVES—BRIDGE.—On October 17th, Vic Reeves, of Neasden, to Miss Evelyn Bridge.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:

CAMERON.—To Bob Cameron, of Harlesden, who has lost his father.

CARR.—To W. Carr, of High Wycombe, whose brother died on October 12th.

DALTON.—To T. Dalton, of Middlesbrough, whose mother, with whom he lived, has died.

EVANS.—To R. W. Evans, of Newbury, whose brother has died.

MATTHEWS.—To C. W. Matthews, of Maidenhead, whose brother has died at the early age of 42. Only a short while ago he lost another brother at the age of 37.

MECKIN.—To H. Meckin, of Workington, whose only brother has died very suddenly. The sad news was waiting for him upon his return from Ovingdean.

REDMAYNE.—To S. Redmayne, of Sandringham, Australia, whose wife died on August 1st.

★ ★ ★

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Burdis, widow of our St. Dunstaner, S. Burdis, of Doncaster, whose eldest son has been killed in a pit accident. He was preparing to connect a shot with detonator leads when a rock weighing several hundred-weight fell from the roof and crushed him. High tribute to him was paid at the inquest by members of the National Coal Board and of the Colliery. He leaves a widow and three children.

Grandfathers

A. Ruston, of Oxford (for the third time); E. Bowcott, of Mitcham; H. A. Perrett, of Devizes (second time); J. Garbutt, of Stockton-on-Tees; E. James, of Darlington; J. Ingram, of Maidenhead, (his son and his wife are at present living in New Zealand); A. Kirstein, of Pretoria (Andrew recently became the father of a son).

“In Memory”

Bombardier John Southern Harrison, *Australian Div. Artillery*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. S. Harrison, of Bedford, at the age of 66.

He was first admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1918, and came to us a second time in 1924. He trained as a physiotherapist and he continued in his profession until his sudden death on October 30th.

He leaves a widow to whom our very sincere sympathy is extended.

Fireman Jack Clyde, *National Fire Service*

With deep regret we record the death of Jack Clyde, of St. Leonards-on-Sea, following a serious accident.

He served in the National Fire Service during the recent war and came to us in November, 1947. He trained first as a telephonist and worked at this for a time. He then went into industry but latterly he had been engaged on a homecraft.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Clyde.

[Corporal George William Lamb, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

We record with deep regret the death of G. W. Lamb, of Hull.

A soldier in the Regular Army, which he joined in 1909, he came to St. Dunstan's in 1927 suffering from injuries and gassing received in May 1918. Although he had had no pre-enlistment experience of country life he obtained a 1st Class Certificate for poultry-keeping, and also in mat-making. During the 1939-45 war he volunteered for factory work and he remained in this until a year or two ago, his health then rapidly deteriorating. He asked to go to Ovingdean and he died there on September 19th.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to his widow.

Private John Steadman Bailey, *Royal Army Medical Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of J. S. Bailey, of Ramsgate, at the age of seventy, which occurred at the Ovingdean Home on October 25th.

He came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1917, and trained in mat-making at which he worked for some time. Then he passed on to wool rugs but gave this up some years ago.

Cremation took place on Friday, October 30th, at Brighton, and two St. Dunstaners—Messrs. Hills and Loveridge, who were staying at Ovingdean, attended. The staff was also represented.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Bailey and her family.

Albert Kirby, *4th Bn. East Yorkshire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Albert Kirby, of Hull, which occurred in hospital on October 27th. He was 59.

A mechanic by trade, he enlisted on August 4th, 1914, and he was discharged from the Army in June, 1918, having suffered multiple wounds involving the amputation of one leg and complete loss of the right eye, the left eye also being seriously affected. In spite of this, his case was only brought forward to us in May of this year, and in September he became a St. Dunstaner. He was not able to work and his health had rapidly deteriorated during the past few weeks.

He leaves a sister and daughters to whom our deepest sympathy is offered.

G. Dalton, F. Clarke, Martin McDonald, A. H. Priddle, T. V. Riley—*Australian Imperial Forces*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of G. Dalton, of Gippsland, Victoria, who became a member of the Victorian Blinded Soldiers' Association a few years ago.

F. Clarke, of Queensland, whose death we have heard with regret, was wounded at Villers Bretonneux in 1918 and came to St. Dunstan's in that year. He suffered in addition to his loss of sight a leg amputation. He trained as a basket-maker and carried on with this craft for some time on his return to his own country.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his family.

Martin McDonald, of Auburn, New South Wales, and A. H. Priddle, of North Bondi, did not come to St. Dunstan's and we have no further details, but Captain Blessington has informed us that Martin died on February 1st of this year and A. H. Priddle died on October 12th last.

T. V. Riley, who lived in Sydney, was blinded in the 1914-1918 war and although he did not train at St. Dunstan's he did meet Sir Arthur Pearson in Wandsworth Hospital in 1918, and had the greatest admiration for him.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Riley.

Walker Randall Meaker, *1st Co. South African Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of one of our South African St. Dunstaners, W. R. Meaker, of Grahamstown.

Wounded at Metterin in 1918 while serving with his regiment, which he had joined in October, 1915, he came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1918, where he trained as a poultry farmer and netter. He married after his return to South Africa, and he continued with his work for some time. Of late years, however, he had been forced to undertake light work only. He died on July 25th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Mr. Hankey Retires

MR. H. Alers Hankey has retired from the Chairmanship of St. Dunstan's, South Africa. He was Honorary Treasurer for ten years and then Chairman for a similar period. No Committee-man or officer has rendered more valuable service. Mr. Hankey was for many decades a leading figure in the commercial and social life of South Africa and the respect in which he was held by Governments and in the community generally was of the greatest value to St. Dunstan's, South Africa, as well as here in the Old Country. I wrote in my Notes last month that our organisation in the Union looked after the members of our St. Dunstan's family there very well indeed, and all who know will agree this was due in very large measure to the wise and kindly administration over which, as Chairman, Mr. Hankey exercised so benevolent an influence. St. Dunstaners in South Africa and we at home owe him a deep debt of gratitude and will think of his long and devoted services and generous personality with affection. I am glad to learn that he will continue to be a member of our Committee. All his friends will earnestly hope that he will enjoy good health in his retirement from active office.

Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy, about whom a brief note appears on another page, takes Mr. Hankey's place. I had the pleasure to meet him in Cape Town recently and admired his lively grasp of our affairs and powers of leadership. We wish him luck.

Tembani Matron

South Africans will also join with St. Dunstaners in Britain in expressing their thanks to Miss Hester Pease, who also retires at this time. She has been over a long period a well-loved After-Care Visitor, and during the war years was Matron at Tembani, our war-time Training Centre at Cape Town. The good wishes of many who benefited from her understanding help will go with her.

Miss Pease will be succeeded as After-Care Visitor by Miss P. N. Cox, who herself worked as a V.A.D. at Tembani, and later as a V.A.D. at West House and at the Transit Hostels in London. Miss Cox has, during the past few weeks, accompanied Miss Pease on her visits to St. Dunstaners in order that she might become acquainted with them and the work. She will take over the reins in the New Year and we all will wish her well.

It is a melancholy thought that these Notes of mine so frequently refer to retirements, but this is due to the fact that an unduly large proportion of our Committee-men and staff

are in the older age groups because St. Dunstan's started operations thirty-eight years ago, and inevitably our first helpers were in early middle age at the beginning.

A Happy Christmas

Christmas is a time for sentiment. We St. Dunstaners will think with lasting affection of Sir Arthur Pearson, who died just before Christmas in 1921. And of many others who have served us well over the years. Christmas is also an occasion for family reunions. St. Dunstan's family of many thousands of men, women and children in all quarters of the world cannot go to one great reunion—I wish they could—but we can think of each other and the bonds of experience that unite us.

IAN FRASER.

To Sir Arthur's Memory

On the morning of December 9th, the thirty-second anniversary of the death of our Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., Mr. Askew, with two St. Dunstaners, Messrs. N. Downs and M. Doyle, and Head Orderly T. Watson, went to Hampstead Cemetery where a wreath was placed on Sir Arthur's grave "in affectionate and grateful remembrance from the war-blinded men and women of the Empire, 1914-18 and 1939-45."

A Service to the memory of Sir Arthur was held on the morning of Sunday, December 13th, at the Ovingdean Chapel. St. Dunstaners from Ovingdean and West House and many living in the Brighton area were present.

Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., read the Lesson and the Service was conducted by the Rev. Dennis Pettit, a St. Dunstaner, and the Rev. W. J. Taylor.

The congregation included Lady Pearson, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, and many other friends of St. Dunstan's including Miss Pain.

Coronation Souvenir Programmes

A limited number of Coronation Souvenir Programmes are available. If any St. Dunstaner would like to have one will he send a postcard to Matron Ramshaw, at Ovingdean. It has been suggested that St. Dunstaners might like to have them by them when listening to excerpts from the Coronation Broadcast at Christmas.

In view of the uncertainty of Christmas mails, immediate application should be made.

Grandfathers

B. Varley, Mark's Tey; T. H. Morley, Chaddesden, Derby.

Are You a Philatelist?

In other words, do you collect stamps? We know that a few St. Dunstaners are collectors. F. A. E. Hawes, of Swindon, with his brothers, has a collection of some 50,000, but the question has been raised by one of our helpers. He adds: "In a former number of one of the well-known philatelic magazines I came across a very interesting article which told of a blind stamp collector who was exceedingly expert not only in selecting stocks himself from the dealers with whom he did business, but who also was so expert that he could detect almost without fail forgeries, defective stamps, and others which, for instance, had been dexterously repaired."

Miss Hester Pease

The Chairman, in his Notes, has referred to the retirement of Miss Hester Pease as After-Care Visitor, and many St. Dunstaners have expressed a wish to subscribe to a presentation to her.

Mr. Askew has offered to act as Honorary Treasurer of the Fund, and St. Dunstaners who desire to associate themselves with the presentation should send their subscriptions to him at 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1.

Personal

Miss Gordon, Northern Area Welfare Visitor, who, as St. Dunstaners in her Area will know, will not be in this country at Christmas-time, wishes all her men, and their families, a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Placement

L. R. Brown, Bedford, as a tobacconist and confectioner.

London Club Notes

The Committee of the London Club wish all members a very Happy Christmas and the best of good luck throughout 1954.

The annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, January 15th, at 7 p.m. The Agenda will include a report of the year's progress, presentation of the balance sheet and election of new committee members. It is hoped that all St. Dunstaners will make a special effort to attend.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge.—St. Dunstan's bridge players held their sixth annual Bridge Congress at Ovingdean on November 21st and 22nd. This is the only Congress of all blind bridge players in the United Kingdom, and probably in the world. Forty-four St. Dunstaners attended from all parts of the country, and with the Commandant and Matron as our hosts, we were a very happy party. Once again we were very fortunate in having with us Mr. Alfred Field as Tournament Director. Our best thanks go to Alfred for giving up a week-end to work so hard in managing our Congress for us.

The main event of the Congress is the "Pairs" for the Sir Arthur Pearson Cup. This year the Cup was won by Messrs. A. Fisher, of Glasgow, with his partner, B. Ingre, of Croydon. This was a great effort—good, steady bridge. The runners-up for the Pairs, tying for second place, were Messrs. P. Nuyens and H. Gover, and E. Slaughter and H. Costigan.

The trophy for Fours was won by Messrs. H. Bulman, E. Carpenter, L. E. Caudle and R. Freer, and the runners-up were Messrs. Jock Brown, J. Fleming, F. Kirkbright and J. Simmons.

At six o'clock on the Sunday, the end of the Congress, Drummer thanked Matron and all her staff for making the week-end so enjoyable. He then presented Matron with a bouquet, after which Matron presented the prizes.

We then elected our new Captain for the Bridge Section, for, as most of you know, I am unable to stand next year. S. Webster and W. Bishop were proposed, and after some close voting, Bill Bishop was elected. Congratulations, and good luck, Bill.

The Club played three matches during the month. On November 7th we lost to J. Waller's team; on November 14th we were away to Lyons and here again we

were not successful; and on November 28th the Midland Bank visited us and we lost to them.

In the London Business Houses League, Paul Nuyens' team has played 6, winning 4 and losing 2, and Tiny Fleming's team has played 4, winning 2 and losing 2.

H. GOVER.

Indoor Section

A return dart match was played at the Club on Monday, November 16th, against members from the Addiscombe and Shirley British Legion. Although we lost the match by two games to one, everyone present enjoyed a very pleasant evening.

Results of the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Trophies Competition for 1953 are as follows:—

Cribbage—

Winner, W. Taylor; Runner-up, C. J. Walker.

Darts, S.S.—

Winner, W. Bishop; Runner-up, J. Fleming.

Darts, T.B.—

Winner, G. Brown; Runner-up, C. Williamson.

Dominoes—

Winner, C. Williamson; Runner-up, G. Brown.

Whist—

Winner, F. Winter.

The prizes were presented by Mr. A. D. Lloyds at the Club on Saturday, December 5th.

W. BISHOP.

Outdoor Section

Mrs. Spurway, deputising for Lady Buckmaster, started the 6 mile race at Regent's Park on November 21st. Late comers and non arrivals caused a delay in the start, but 13 competitors eventually went off to a very fine and fast start.

Archie Brown, forcing the pace from the word 'go,' was the reason for the fast men returning good times, but this was really a race for the not so fast. It was to gain Road Walking Association 6-miles-in-the-hour badges for those who had not previously done so, plus, of course, the usual handicap prizes. Of these men, Dennis Fleisig was outstanding, as he walked better than he has ever done before, to finish 5th in the race and gain his R.W.A. badge. Pat Cryan also walked very well, finishing 4th in the race and gaining his badge, and also winning the handicap. Les Dennis also qualified for the R.W.A. badge.

Our Birmingham friends did well, but as this is really only their first season they were not quite fast enough, although I have no doubt that next season will see great improvements from this quarter. How-

Letters to the Editor

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I would commend a little thing by Rudyard Kipling to many of my fellow St. Dunstaners—"If."

Finally, dear Editor, may I extend to you and the many St. Dunstaners who have written to and of me the compliments of the season, and just a sincere hope that 1954 will bring more and more "scribblings" and/or "masterpieces" to our little monthly friend, the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW.

Sincerely,

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N. 17.

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ever, Jerry Lynch, a relatively new comer, was second in the handicap, and Joe Kibler, still beating the handicapper, took third prize.

Lady Buckmaster later presented the prizes at the Club and thus brought a very successful afternoon's sport to a satisfactory end.

W.M., C.W.

St. Dunstan's Six Mile Walk

Regent's Park, Saturday, November 21st, 1953

<i>Order of Finish</i>		<i>Act. Time</i>	<i>H'cp. All.</i>	<i>H'cp. Time in H'cp.</i>	<i>Pos.</i>
1.	W. Miller ...	52:30	Scr.	52:30	4
2.	A. Brown ...	53:43	1:05	52:38	5
3.	C. Williamson...	54:49	.55	53:54	9
4.	P. Cryan ...	55:46	4:45	51:01	1
5.	D. Fleisig ...	57:59	3:55	54:04	10
6.	S. Tutton ...	58:10	3:45	54:25	11
7.	C. Stafford ...	59:18	5:55	53:23	7
8.	L. Dennis ...	59:43	6:45	52:58	6
9.	J. Kibler ...	62:41	10:15	52:26	3
10.	D. Faulkner ...	63:05	8:15	54:50	12
11.	F. Madgewick...	63:22	9:45	53:37	8
12.	J. Lynch ...	68:30	16:55	51:35	2

Winner of Handicap—P. Cryan.

Second, J. Lynch.

Third, J. Kibler.

Handicapper and Timekeeper, Mr. W. J. Harris.

Retirement

C. A. Blackett, of Plymouth, who joined the Admiralty as a typist in 1920, has just retired.

Tributes to our St. Dunstaner were made at a presentation ceremony at the Dockyard office at which he has worked for 33 years. His colleagues gave him a cheque and friends in the Drawing Office made another presentation. Mrs. Blackett, who attended the ceremony, received a bouquet.

Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy

Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy, K.C.M.G., who, as mentioned in the Chairman's Notes, has taken the place of Mr. H. Alers-Hankey as Chairman of the St. Dunstan's Committee, South Africa, has had a distinguished career as an Administrator. He served in the first World War and has since held a number of important posts. He was for four years Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Nyasaland Protectorate, and at the outbreak of war in 1939 became Chief Political Liaison Officer, East African Forces. In 1942 he was appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Mauritius, and he held this position until his retirement in 1949.

Murder!

The most terrifying experience I have ever had happened one evening in September, 1951, towards the end of our first season as boarding-house keepers.

I was sitting in the house alone listening to a play on the wireless. All the visitors were out, although it was nearly time for supper and I was expecting them at any moment. The front door was open, the inside door closed, but not locked, as is usual in seaside boarding houses when guests are continually in and out.

The play was a real bloodcurdler—dogs howling, women screaming, men shouting, guns firing—the type of play you had to listen to either because you found it so good that you had to hear the end to find out “who dun it,” or because you are too scared to get up and turn the radio off. I was in the latter category.

Suddenly I heard the inside door open, and a man's voice shouted, “Can I come in?” I sat still, unable to move or speak. My hands went limp and my string bag frame fell to the floor with a clatter. I did not know the voice. It was not one of our guests. He came down the hall towards me and I was just able to see him. Then his hand went into his pocket. I was petrified with fear and prayed for someone to come before he could get his gun out and use it. I wondered where the money was and if he would believe me when I said I didn't know. Should I scream? But the neighbours would not hear me. Could I hit him with anything? But the only thing at hand was my string bag frame. The only thing was to throw myself on his mercy.

Slowly his hand came out of his pocket and I waited, trembling. “Have a cigarette,” he said. “Can you put the missus and me up for the week-end? She's outside in the car.”

Later, when I had recovered and we were all able to laugh at my fright, he told me that he and his wife had been to stay in the next street the previous year—the third house from the end. In the semi-darkness they had made a mistake in the streets. They stayed with us for the week-end and have been again since, which just goes to show . . .

MARGARET STANWAY.

Morecambe.

We Hear That

A. Scott, of Belfast, who took a Civil Defence course at the end of October. is to be issued with a certificate qualifying him to lecture.

✱ ✱ ✱

Frank Hemsworth, of Bentley, Doncaster, won the individual cup for dominoes in the League contest organised by the local Home Teaching Organisation.

✱ ✱ ✱

Michael Oliver presented a Coronation tray to the organiser of a concert in the Stanley Hall, South Norwood, on November 27th. Alf. and Mrs. Wiltshire, of Norbury, were also there to support the effort.

✱ ✱ ✱

H. T. Cheal, of Saltford, gained first prize for onions and a first for dahlias at the Bristol Guild of Blind Gardeners' Show for 1953.

✱ ✱ ✱

F. Steventon, of Lisburn, County Antrim, now nicely settled in his smallholding, has a budgerigar which talks to him and gives him great interest and pleasure.

✱ ✱ ✱

Our shop-keeper, E. G. Anderson, of East Ham, was the victim of a minor smash and grab raid this month. At 1 a.m. he and his wife were awakened by the sound of smashed glass. A brick had been hurled through the shop-window and two cigarette lighters stolen. A policeman was already on the spot and two youths were later caught and charged.

✱ ✱ ✱

Sir Ian Fraser has been appointed an Officer of the Legion d'Honneur by the President of the French Republic, and Commander de l'Ordre de la Couronne by King Baudouin of Belgium.

✱ ✱ ✱

Mrs. E. Slaughter raised £210 for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association by means of a bazaar. Goods made by St. Dunstaners were among the articles for sale. Mrs. Slaughter was President of the organising committee in Salisbury.

Happy Christmas!

The Editor wishes all readers of the REVIEW a very happy Christmas and the best of luck in the New Year.

Australian Letter

In a letter to Headquarters, John Alton writes from Melbourne:

"We moved into our own house in April, 1950. It is a five-roomed weather-board bungalow with tiled roof; almost all the houses here are weatherboard and most have corrugated iron roofs. They are most suitable for the climate. We have modern conveniences such as hot-water services, refrigerator, washing machine—these things are almost necessities here, especially when the temperature goes over the 100 as it does occasionally in mid-summer.

"I am still doing well at work, working for the same engineering firm since I arrived here. I like the work very much, the firm is a good firm to work for, and best of all, I have an exceptionally good foreman. I assemble air compressors and up to date I reckon I have assembled nearly 5,000.

"I have had two spells in hospital since I have been out here. The first was on the right eye. The next was last month and it necessitated the removal of the left eye. The Repatriation Hospital at Heidelberg is really a marvellous place. Whilst I was there, a deputation from my firm visited me (the shop-steward and two committee men) bringing me a kit-bag full of fruit, sweets, cigarettes, and a big bunch of flowers (just in case, I thought). I asked the shop-steward how things were at the works and he answered very gravely 'Things are at a standstill, I'm afraid,' implying that they were waiting for me to come back. When I did get back to work I found my bench just as I had left it; my foreman wouldn't let anyone touch anything, so that I could carry on where I left off.

"I have blossomed out a bit socially since living out here. I have learnt to dance and attend a dance once a fortnight throughout the cool part of the year. During the summer months we spend our leisure hours down on the beach. The variation in water temperature is about 8 degrees, so in winter the sea feels lukewarm and in summer, refreshingly cool. We get an occasional shark in the bay, but luckily they haven't made a meal of anyone for a few years now. The R.A.A.F. usually spots them in time to give ample warning. "Well, I must say cheerio for this time, wishing you all the best of luck over there."

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type that is always mistaking sincere feeling for something else? To him I would say, "I feel genuinely appreciative of his addressing me by my Christian name, but I am horrified to see it so closely followed by the very formal 'sir.'" Wake up! We are back in Civvy Street; a light-hearted bit of imaginative construction from "Nelson" and the evidence that, once again, George Ellis has mangled his typewriter.

This was the published result of my letter, my very first one too. The unsung harvest, however, came to me privately by means of the G.P.O. in dozens. Some supported keenly, others criticised harshly, but the majority complained that, since their letters would assuredly not be published due to some form of censorship, the only way to air opinions was by direct correspondence. This cannot be the case, for apart from the limitations imposed by lack of space, I feel sure that our periodical enjoys the same freedom of speech and thought as our daily press and, in fact, the entire gamut of British journalism. Of course, we must remember that ours is more or less a private publication. My conclusion, then from these letters is to make the suggestion, which I trust may be considered constructive, that any St. Dunstaner who feels moved to do so should be allowed to write the leader for what is, after all, his own paper, and that "The Chairman's Notes," which deal mainly with his Parliamentary activities on our behalf, should be the subject of a special article within the magazine.

Finally, in thanking all the correspondents especially those with rejection slips, I would like to say that, if my pen seems to have a disdainful touch, I am sorry for such was not intended. I would like also to render it clear to all that while I was typing that letter, I too had the appearance of suffering from a gumboil!

Yours sincerely,
STEWART SPENCE.

DEAR EDITOR,

It has been said that if you lose your sight your other senses become more acutely developed.

It might be interesting and even amusing to probe deeper into this matter and analyse our pet likes and dislikes.

Here are mine for what they are worth.

I like the smell of parched earth after a heavy shower of rain.

I like the taste of tripe and onions just like my mother used to make it.

I like the "feel" of being on board a ship.

I like the sound of ice tinkling in a tall glass on a hot day.

I dislike the smell of cabbage cooking.

I dislike the taste of garlic.

I dislike the "feel" of an icy road.

I dislike the sound of swearing.

Yours sincerely,

London, W.11.

JOHN MARTIN.

[Other lists of "likes" and "dislikes" welcomed. St. Dunstaners should keep to the four senses in the order set out by John. One guinea for the best list received. Five shillings for every other list used. Closing date: January 9th.]

Televised

Bernard Glover, of Portsmouth, was one of those taking part in the television feature, "Inventors' Club," a few weeks back. Bernard has invented an "accordionola"—an electronic adaptation of the piano accordion—which has been commented upon very favourably in the press.

Talking Book Library

Notre Novembre Dame

There is but one book this month "copiously" to effuse about, and it is an historical biography known in outline to most readers. A short life and a not so merry one.

"Marie Antoinette," by Hilaire Belloc, reader David Lloyd James, purports to show that this Queen's life was, from her very birth, strongly signposted by circumstance and incident towards a violent end, and that even had her temperament been different, she would hardly have escaped her fate. Gambling seems to have been her only real vice, but her general silliness gave rise to the false and powerful rumours which ruined her in the hearts of her people.

A good and sincere biography, but, innocent or guilty, there can be few people who relish having their necks trimmed before reaching the age of 40, and this French Queen had every cause for indignation.

Admittedly a very limited reading choice, but there is nothing more to offer at the moment.

"NELSON."

Ovingdean Notes

Brighton Games Club

The attention of all St. Dunstaners resident in the Brighton area is directed to a new Tournament. Commencing on Thursday, January 14th, 1954, an Aggregate Domino Tournament is to be held in the Winter Garden, Ovingdean, commencing at 7 p.m. on that date.

Whist, Cribbage and Darts Tournaments are also being arranged.

The meetings are held regularly on the second Thursday of each month.

The Secretary of the Games Club is Frank A. Rhodes, of 43 Ainsworth Avenue, Ovingdean, and any further information can be obtained from him.

Chess Week-end Tournament at Ovingdean

This was an occasion when distinguished people were active, and quite a few pawns!

We were indeed sorry Cliff Stockwell and Tommy Tuxford were unable to join us, but I agree with their Majesties, His Grace and the Noble Knights, there are far more St. Dunstaners who can play Chess than turn up for this most enjoyable week-end. An enjoyable week-end it was, for indeed I know of no other contest where the deaf, amputees and invalid St. Dunstaners are better able to meet and get together. We who came this year hope that next time there will be a larger number come along. It should not be supposed we who do come are champions! Far from it, some hadn't played a game for 12 months, and one or two had only had half a dozen games, yet all the competitions were keenly contested. Indeed three were not played out and the Captain had to decide upon the winners.

Whilst the first round of the tournament was in progress on Saturday morning, Lord Normanby visited Ovingdean and was very interested in watching the games for a spell. On Sunday we welcomed a party of Brighton boys from the School Chess League, and they gave us some excellent friendly games.

Charlie Kelk was a popular winner of the Knock-out Contest, and he is also to be congratulated on the way he helped to organise the playing throughout the week-end. Roy Armstrong (who, we understand, is a comparative newcomer to the Chess board) played very well indeed to

carry off the second Tournament. Congratulations to them both and to Bill Hodder who was awarded second prize in the Cup Tournament.

Charlie Kelk was voted Captain at the commencement of the week-end—and very hard-working and able he proved to be too!

Captain's prize for the best games was won by 2nd War—Bob Evans, of Newbury, and 1st War—J. B. Campbell, of Houghton-le-Spring.

We look forward to next year's competition and hope there will be even better support from St. Dunstaners. Come along, some of you chaps—have a shot!

Many thanks to the Staff for the arrangements throughout the week-end, and in particular to Miss Carlton.

“KING'S PAWN.”

Entertainments

The two main events of Ovingdean's month are summed up admirably in the following extracts from the local Press:

*From the “Brighton and Hove Herald,”
December 5th, 1953:—*

For very many years the grocers of England have taken the cause of St. Dunstan's to their hearts. They bought and presented West House to the organisation, and paid for one floor of the Ovingdean training centre.

Each year, money subscribed by grocers all over the country is used by the National Federation of Grocers to give the St. Dunstaners a good time at Christmas.

The organisation is carried out by the Brighton, Hove and District Grocers' and Provision Merchants' Association, who on Wednesday entertained nearly 500 St. Dunstaners and guides at the Grand Hotel. They provided a grand Christmas dinner, with turkey and all the gay party trimmings. Afterwards the guests—some of the most cheerful people ever to dine at the hotel—enjoyed a cabaret arranged by Mr. Norman Shaw and the Brighton and Hove Operatic Society. For the grocers have found that the St. Dunstaners—especially those blinded in the first World War—thoroughly enjoy good music.

The guests were welcomed by the president of the association, Mr. W. E. R. Tongue, and the national president, Mr. Leslie Gillett. Sir Neville Pearson replied

on behalf of St. Dunstan's. Mr. L. Fawcett, commandant at Ovingdean, was at the dinner, with the matrons of West House and Ovingdean.

The organisation was carried out by a voluntary committee of 12, under the chairmanship of Mr. A. E. Clifford, and the secretary, Mr. H. Finlay.

From the "Sussex Daily News," December 5th, 1953.—

Lord Freyberg, V.C., distinguished veteran of two world wars, visited Brighton last night for the first time in 13 years to meet 80 war-blinded ex-service men.

The occasion was the 33rd annual dinner provided for St. Dunstan's men by busmen of Brighton, Hove and District Omnibus Company and Southdown Motors at the Black Lion Hotel, Patcham.

Lord Freyberg, Governor-General of New Zealand for six years, met and chatted with first and second world war veterans.

They told their guest, whose visit was kept a secret, of where they served and how they were blinded. He told them of his many campaigns and how he was wounded 13 times.

But when Lord Freyberg was introduced to Peter Booth he was not sure what to say. For Peter is only 21.

He was ambushed while serving as a national serviceman in Korea and was the only one of a section to come out alive. Then he spent nine months as a prisoner. Now he is at St. Dunstan's Training Centre at Ovingdean.

Lord Freyberg congratulated Mr. A. F. R. Carling, general manager of Southdown Motors and his organising committee, for all they had done for St Dunstan's. And he singled out for special praise 68-year-old Mr. Mark Richards, of Ellen Street, Hove, whose collections among his fellow busmen started the enterprise.

Mr. L. Fawcett, commandant of St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, said the local busmen had been helping his organisation one way and another for 30 years.

Christmas Greetings

Commandant, Matron and Staff at Ovingdean and at West House take this opportunity of sending greetings and good wishes to all St. Dunstaners for a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Is it "Coincidence"?

"God grant I may never be like that man." This quotation from an article written by the late Capt. Appleby, and found in his papers, stirred the subconscious in me and brought to the surface recollections of many similar experiences.

One day in 1917, whilst on hospital leave after being gassed at Nieuport, I was indulging in my favourite pastime of going round the antique shops, feasting my eyes on the beautiful things displayed in the windows when, without any warning, the thought hit me, "Wouldn't it be terrible if I went back and was blinded." The thought and the queer feeling in my stomach was forgotten as I returned to the crowded pavement, to be recalled in all its vividness a few weeks later for, like Capt. Appleby, it happened to me.

Some years later, during a holiday with my sister, I told her of this experience, to which she replied: "I've never told you before but, the morning you went to join up, I thought I had been sitting with mother to try and keep her from worrying, and as you walked down the road she said 'There goes the last of the five and it's too much to expect them all to come back as they have gone, but there are two things I pray they will escape, blindness and injury to the brain.'" A few weeks later she was visiting one of my brothers who was quite mad from a head injury (thank God, he only lived five months), while it was my lot to be blinded.

To me there is something more than mere coincidence in such phenomena: I believe, though we are not conscious of it at the time, that for a fleeting moment we are vouchsafed a glimpse into the future, a glimpse which is a preparation for the fulfilment of an inescapable part of our destiny.

T. ROGERS.

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages

On October 31st, Frederick Watts (Rockferry), to Miss Norah McDonnell.

On November 14th, the youngest son of A. C. Brignal, of Brighton, was married.

On November 21st, Kenneth Northgraves (Hampton).

On October 17th, the elder son of S. Gobourn, of Cheltenham.

Not "The Boys" Please

The "Air Force Daily," a newspaper for United States airmen in Europe, objects to Servicemen being called "the boys."

"It never was apt or fitting and was, and is thoroughly resented by men of all ranks," a leading article said recently. "It smacks a good deal of mama's spoiled darling and does not depict an armed, trained and dangerous man."

"Fact is, we could never see anything wrong with calling a soldier a soldier, an airman an airman, or a sailor a sailor."

St. Dunstaners—any comment?

Hot Chestnut

Tommy was the son of a St. Dunstaner, and although a very bright boy it must be admitted he was not quick at figures. The other day the teacher said, "Tommy, what would £3 15s. and £4 15s. amount to?" Tommy looked blank. He didn't know. "Come," said teacher kindly, "I'll make it easier for you. Suppose your father came home to-day with his pension from the post office and gave your mother £3 15s. in that hand and £4 15s. in that hand. What would your mother have?" Quick as a flash, Tommy replied, "She'd have a fit."

P.S.—The above smile appeared in the *Sheffield Telegraph* during the summer of 1907, but I have "hotted" it up a bit.

B. HAMILTON.

Young St. Dunstaners

Alan Alexander (Parkstone, Dorset) has been wounded in the foot while serving with the Black Watch in Kenya. This is his second wound, but happily it is not serious.

Major Harry McAndrew, elder son of J. McAndrew, of Blackpool, has successfully passed his Course at Staff College, Camberley, and has been appointed to the War Office in Whitehall (organisation). He was promoted substantive Major in 1952. He is 33.

Cedric Bell (Birkenhead) has got his Second Engineer's ticket at 22 years of age. His brother, Arthur, who is 24, has just gained his graduateship for the Institute of Mechanical Engineers (G.I.Mech.E.).

Trevor Holland (Heswall) has passed for his S.R.N. He is at present at Culdrose R.N. Air Station.

Corinne Lambert (Highbury) obtained eight passes in the General Certificate of Education exam.

Joan Lewis (Mitcham) has passed her General Certificate examination in eight subjects and received four prizes.

Marriages

Olive Griffiths (Woodingdean, Brighton) on October 24th, to Donald Biggs.

On July 11th (only just notified to us), Doreen Southgate (Chelsea) to Derek Head.

Norma Fitzgerald (Newcastle-on-Tyne), on December 12th, to Brian Frederick Ferguson.

(Other Marriages on page 10).

Ode to Mankind

*Let me paint a picture of St. Dunstan's,
Let me see if my brush can portray
The true feeling of St. Dunstan's
As it goes on day by day.*

*For the background of my picture
I choose a colour rich and sublime,
A colour that could easily resemble
Goodwill towards mankind.*

*Kindness and sincerity
Truly make an exquisite shade,
While the lines of happiness
Are a colour that will never fade.*

*Gaily tinted with humour
Which gives an inward light,
And those carefree lines of laughter
Are of a colour so merry and bright.*

*There's no academy in the universe
Where man has displayed such art,
For the only true place for my picture
Is in every St. Dunstaner's heart.*

WALLY THOMAS.

The Flight into Egypt

Having told her class of seven-year-olds about the flight into Egypt, a school teacher asked them to draw a picture of it. One bright little boy brought his drawing right up to date by drawing an aeroplane with two compartments. In the rear he had three people with haloes. In the front was one with no halo. The teacher asked who they were. "Jesus, Mary and Joseph," said the little lad. "And who is this in front? He hasn't a halo." "Oh, no, you see that's Pontius the pilot."

(Taken from a church magazine and sent in by Jim Shaw, of Ashton-in-Makerfield).

“In Memory”

Private Frederick John Wareham, 5th Wiltshire Regt.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of F. J. Wareham, of Portsmouth. He would have been 72 this month.

He was discharged from the Army in November, 1918, and came to St. Dunstan's some ten years later. He trained in mat-making and continued with this work, although his health had been failing for some time. His death occurred suddenly, however, on November 3rd.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades was sent for the funeral. A contingent from the British Legion lined the roadway to the cemetery, their Standard being dipped as the cortege passed.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his sister and brother-in-law, with whom he lived.

Frederick Kneller, Merchant Service

With deep regret we record the death of F. Kneller, of Southampton, at the age of 69.

He came to St. Dunstan's in February, 1918, two years after his discharge from the Merchant Service, and he trained as a netter, but for some years now his failing health had made this work impossible. He was admitted to hospital at the beginning of November and he died there on the 18th.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Sergeant George Craddock, D.C.M., Royal Field Artillery

We record with deep regret the death of G. Craddock, of Wellingborough. He was 58.

Enlisting in August, 1914, he was wounded at Ypres in 1918, when he lost his sight and suffered also severe wounding in the left arm and amputation of the right hand. For gallantry in the field he was awarded the D.C.M.

He came to St. Dunstan's at the end of 1918 and set up in civilian life as a tobacconist, and he built up a very successful business. His death occurred suddenly on November 13th.

A wreath of poppies from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral, and those attending included the Rev. Dennis and Mrs. Pettit, Mrs. King (Welfare Visitor), Mrs. Negus, and Mrs. Houghton (from Tembani).

Private Samuel Britcliffe, 1-5th Lincolnshire Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of S. Britcliffe, a resident at West House, but formerly of Wrawby, Lincolnshire. He was 58.

Enlisting in May, 1914, he went to France with the 1-5th Lincolnshire Regiment and was wounded at the Battle of the Somme in January, 1916, losing then nearly all his sight. He came to us in January, 1918, but towards the end of that year his sight improved so much that he left us. In 1951, however, his sight had deteriorated so greatly that he was re-admitted. His general health was by then far from good and at the end of September he became a resident at West House, where his sudden death on November 14th was a sad shock to all.

Sir Ian's wreath of poppies was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our very sincere sympathy is offered to his sister, Mrs. Elvin.

Births

CHADWICK.—On November 7th, to the wife of C. Chadwick, of Goosnargh, a son.

JONES.—On December 15th, to the wife of S. Jones, of Pinner, a son—Brian Robert.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

BURTON.—To J. Burton, of Porchester, whose brother has recently died.

CARMAN.—To P. Carman, of Woodbridge, whose wife died on November 18th.

COLLINS.—To R. H. Collins, of Liverpool, whose father died on November 19th.

FOYLE.—To P. Foyle, of Bournemouth, whose wife died in hospital on November 28th after a long illness.

RICHARDSON.—To F. G. Richardson, of Lancing, who lost his mother on the evening of Tuesday, December 8th.

SHEEHAN.—To R. Sheehan, of Bridgwater, who lost his brother recently.

Mrs. Bernard Myers

We read with regret in *The Times* recently of the death of Mrs. Bernard Myers. A correspondent wrote: “The death of Violet Myers, wife of Dr. Bernard Myers, C.M.G., will be sad news to many in varied walks of life. In the 1914-18 war she gave magnificent service as a V.A.D. to the blinded soldiers at St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park, and was held by all in deep regard. Many of those she did so much to help have continued to write to her over the years.”

Unfortunately, we have not been able to obtain any further details.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

RECEIVED

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K.F.G.

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

Death of Miss Dorothy Pain

MISS DOROTHY PAIN, O.B.E., Matron of St. Dunstan's until her retirement two years ago, died suddenly and peacefully at her home in London on the morning of December 22nd. In accordance with her wish, she was buried in West Hampstead Cemetery with her father and mother, in the family grave.

The funeral service was held on the afternoon of Tuesday, December 29th, at St. Marylebone Parish Church, and an exactly similar Service was held at the same hour at the Ovingdean Chapel. In London, Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., read the Lesson—Revelations 7, verses 9 to the end—and Sir Ian Fraser gave an Appreciation. At Ovingdean, Commandant Fawcett read the Lesson and the Rev. W. Taylor, who conducted the Service, read the words which Sir Ian was using at the London Service. Sir Ian said:

"You will forgive me if I tell this story personally. It may be all the more real for that, and I think it will be your experience also.

"When I came to St. Dunstan's as a young fellow in 1916, Miss Pain was twenty-five or twenty-six years of age. She wore the scarlet dress of the Commandant of the British Red Cross and this set her off to very great advantage, for she was a most beautiful young woman—a startlingly beautiful young woman. She had a high colour, blue eyes and golden hair. Some said she had a face like a Madonna.

"As I sat down thinking of what I should say to you today, that picture came into my mind and then it occurred to me that I had never seen her myself. I expect it is your experience also that when you have been familiar with something for a very long time you think you have seen it.

"In 1923, her war work ended, Miss Pain left us to go back to the National Library for the Blind, though she maintained many individual contacts with St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners.

"When the second World War threatened, Miss Pain returned to take charge of our Braille and Typewriting School. Thus it was that when we opened up at Brighton in the first hours of the outbreak of the new war, she was there.

"As time progressed, we moved to Church Stretton because of the air attacks on London and the South Coast, and Miss Pain went up there to be Commandant Matron in charge not only of Braille and Typewriting, but also of the whole establishment. Soon this became too big for one head and a Commandant was appointed, and Miss Pain became the Matron of St. Dunstan's.

"Two years ago she retired, having reached the age for superannuation. She was to have made a journey to Australia and New Zealand and Canada to visit St. Dunstaners, and many welcomes had been prepared for her by State and provincial and town authorities as well as in the homes of St. Dunstaners themselves. It was a great disappointment when,

a few hours after she had stepped on board to make this Odyssey, she fell ill and had to return to Britain for a long period of convalescence.

"What was her very great contribution to the family of St. Dunstan's? Not Braille or Typewriting, though she was an expert in these and what she taught us has stood us in good stead over the years; not her administrative abilities as Matron, but her personality. She was able to draw people to her so that they poured out their troubles to her and she listened and she comforted. Her influence was felt much more widely than in any one or more of our Homes, for St. Dunstaners all over the land and all over the world used to write to her. The older generation knew her from the first war and the younger generation knew her because she was the first to meet them when they came from hospital, newly blinded and wondering what life held for them. St. Dunstan's has been blessed with many wonderful women, but none has excelled her capacity for understanding and love.

"Now she has died and we grieve—not for her—but about her loss, for it is we that are bereft.

"What is her memorial? It is in our lives—if we are good enough—and in our hearts."

A large number of St. Dunstaners, past and present members of the staff, and representatives of all sections of the blind world were present at the services in London and at Ovingdean.

There were many wreaths from individual St. Dunstaners and from groups, such as the physiotherapists and the Irish St. Dunstaners, and a number came from personal friends. Wreaths were also sent by the President and other officers of St. Dunstan's, from the Council, and from our various Homes.

Mr. J. C. Colligan, Secretary-General of the Royal National Institute for the Blind, writes:

"We all had the liveliest regard for Miss Pain's great abilities and all her sympathetic understanding of the problems of the blind."

Miss D. Goff, Deputy Secretary of the National Library for the Blind, writes:

"Miss Pain was a very old friend of the Library and many of us still remember her with great affection, when she was a member of the staff."

The Honours List

Two St. Dunstaners were among those receiving Honours in the New Year Honours List. Alderman Captain J. A. D. Cochrane-Barnett, who serves on the West Sussex County Council, and is Chairman of the Southern Regional Association for the Blind, and a Member of the Council of the Royal National Institute for the Blind, becomes an O.B.E. Also awarded the O.B.E. is Mr. James Tindal Stewart Scrymgeour, "for public services, particularly to the cattle industry, in Australia." Both are St. Dunstaners of the first war.

★ ★ ★

Mr. Alan Pitt Robbins, a Member of the Council of St. Dunstan's, and lately News Editor of *The Times*, becomes a C.B.E.

Mr. John Gavin, w.s., Chairman of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh, and a Member of the Council of St. Dunstan's (representing the Scottish National Institution for the War-Blinded,

of which he is also Chairman), receives the O.B.E.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. G. R. Aitken, a member of various Social Welfare Organisations connected with the United Kingdom community in Bombay, India, receives the M.B.E. Mrs. Aitken will be remembered by St. Dunstaners as Mrs. Pansy Lipscomb—Sir Arthur Pearson's daughter—who did so much hospital visiting with him in the first world war.

★ ★ ★

The Rt. Hon. Richard Law, M.P., becomes a Baron. Mr. Law was one of the team of M.P.s rowing against a St. Dunstan's four in 1932.

College Reunion

3rd College Reunion. Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly Circus. Saturday, 24th April, 12.30 to 5.30 p.m. Lunch, 1.15 p.m. Single tickets 15s. Double tickets 27s. 6d. Obtainable from W. T. Scott, 46 Leigham Avenue, Streatham, S.W.16.

London Club Notes

Indoor Section.—On December 22nd the Club held its Christmas Party. A good number of the club members and their wives and escorts gathered together in the decorated rooms, and among the artistes appearing were the radio star Peter Cavanagh, the famous "Voice of them all," the ever charming Helen Clare, soprano, who delighted us with her songs, and the Dargie Quintet who kept us in fits of laughter.

With Miss Ibbetson and her band of willing helpers serving the refreshments, and Bob Willis alternating between M.C. and Father Christmas, everyone enjoyed themselves. Thus the Club was brought to the end of another successful year. P. A.

Bridge.—The Seventeenth Annual General Meeting of the Bridge Section took place at the Club, 191 Marylebone Road, on Saturday afternoon, 5th December, 1953; the chair was taken by Mr. A. D. Lloyd.

At the meeting it was confirmed that W. Bishop be elected Captain/Secretary for the ensuing year. The following members were elected to the committee: S. Webster (Treasurer), N. Downs, W. Henry, and M. Delaney.

A hearty welcome is extended to any new members any Saturday afternoon. Games commence at 2.15 p.m.

The final event for 1953 was a grand Christmas bridge drive, held in the Club on Saturday, 12th December. The duties of master of ceremonies were performed by our esteemed friend A. Field. Twenty-one members with their partners enjoyed a pleasant and keenly-contested tournament. The winners were: 1st, J. Fleming; 2nd, C. Thompson; 3rd, F. Winter; 4th P. Nuyens; nearest parity, R. Giffard.

The play-off between the two finalists for the Club League Pairs competition took place on Saturday afternoon, 19th December, between M. Delaney and S. Webster *versus* L. Douglas and H. Cook. After 3½ hours' battle amidst dense smoke and with numerous cups of tea, L. Douglas and H. Cook became the worthy winners.

W. BISHOP.

Outdoor Section.—On the 19th December we had the great honour of welcoming Lt. Col. J. P. Carne, v.c., of the Gloucesters, to the London Club and to start and to present the prizes for our seven mile walk in Regent's Park.

After setting off the field and watching the first rounding of the Inner Circle, the Colonel spurred all offers of a lift round the course, much to the consternation of the officials, who perforce, had to walk as well.

Although the day was dry there was a bitter east wind blowing which whipped everyone to a very fast start, with the result that there were some good performances. W. Miller won the race in 61-30 min., and the tail end once again beat the handicapper. J. Lynch won the handicap with W. Miller second and P. Cryan third. "Peter Pan" Brown was the fastest loser.

We again had a scratch match, scoring seven a side, with the police, and we were beaten 42 points to 65, nevertheless we certainly made the police go.

We regret that the field was depleted through illness and wish T. Gaygan and D. Fleisig speedy recovery. There were no entries from Birmingham; probably the fog kept them away, but we hope to see them at the next race. C. W.

St. Dunstan's Seven Mile Walk and Match with Metropolitan Police Regent's Park, Saturday, December 19th

Order of Finish		Act. Time	H ^{cp} All.	H ^{cp} in Time H ^p		Pos.
				Scr.	61-30	
1.	W. Miller	St. D's	61-30	Scr.	61-30	2
2.	McFarlane	M.P.	61-31	—	—	—
3.	O'Hara	M.P.	61-32	—	—	—
4.	Wright	M.P.	63-26	—	—	—
5.	Mason	M.P.	63-45	—	—	—
6.	A. Brown	St. D's	64-02	1-10	62-52	5
7.	Bryant	M.P.	64-02	—	—	—
8.	C. Williamson	St. D's	64-31	1-10	63-21	6
9.	Mash	M.P.	64-31	—	—	—
10.	P. Cryan	St. D's	65-37	3-40	61-57	3
11.	S. Tutton	St. D's	67-38	5-00	62-38	4
12.	Butt	M.P.	70-52	—	—	—
13.	Scarlett	M.P.	70-51	—	—	—
14.	C. Stafford	St. D's	71-37	7-20	64-17	7
15.	L. Dennis	St. D's	74-56	8-05	66-51	8
16.	J. Lynch	St. D's	79-38	18-10	61-28	1

Winner of Handicap, J. Lynch; Second, J. Miller

Third, P. Cryan.

Result of Match:

1st: Met. Police, 42 points.

2nd: St. Dunstan's, 65 points.

Handicapper and Timekeeper: Mr. W. J. Harris.

Ruby Wedding

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Clark, of Lee, S.E.12, who were married forty years ago on Christmas Day.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Rees, Wirral, December 22nd. Congratulations.

A New Pensions Campaign Opens

A personal letter to every member of the British Legion from Sir Ian Fraser, its President, has opened a new campaign for higher pensions for disabled ex-Servicemen. The Legion's one million members are asked to bring pressure on the Government in every possible way.

Sir Ian appealed to Legionnaires to try to enlist one new member, and to make contact with a disabled man working or living near. He went on:

"I think the fulfilment of our requests to Governments is overdue. If we all thought and felt and worked together as we did in battle, we could, I believe, move mountains. Let us see if we can make public opinion give us that degree of priority of consideration which would ensure success for our cause."

Likes and Dislikes

There have been a number of entries for the Likes and Dislikes competition. A selection will be published next month. There is still time to send in your Likes and Dislikes of smell, taste, "feel," and sound. Doubly handicapped St. Dunstaners are particularly invited to send in their own appropriate replies.

Liverpool Club Notes

A number of St. Dunstaners met at the Sefton Hall, Liverpool, for our annual Christmas Party. After tea a splendid concert was given by Mr. J. Reason and his party. Mr. Reason has, since the inception of St. Dunstan's Club made this an annual event, and we cannot speak too highly of the efforts which he and his party make for our enjoyment. Various presentations were made and a gift of a pair of driving gloves was made on behalf of the Club to Mr. Harry Formstone, in recognition of his services to the Club as our Games Manager. The presentation was made by Mr. J. Blakely with an appropriate speech. The party broke up at about 10.15 p.m. and everyone declared that it had been a very jolly evening. Unfortunately, we missed a number of friends who through sickness or other causes were unable to be with us. Among these was our beloved President, Captain Halloway, and his wife. We had with us as guests, Miss Vaughan Davies, Mrs. Dunphy, Mrs. Lang, Miss Doel and Miss Davies (Visitor for Wales and Cheshire). The next meeting of the Club

is on Saturday, 16th January, and fortnightly after that date when we shall be glad to welcome new members. I am sure that there are many St. Dunstaners on Merseyside who would enjoy meeting old friends and joining in our outings and games. Miss Doel can give you any particulars and, as I have said before, you will receive a warm welcome.

J. C. OWEN, *Chairman.*

Manchester Club Notes

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to Bob Britton, Mr. and Mrs. Hindle and the members of the darts club at the Railway Hotel, Pleasington (Blackburn), for the very enjoyable afternoon and evening which they provided for members of our Club and their wives and escorts on Saturday, 7th November last. The usual sumptuous meal was enjoyed to the full.

Our members were very proud to win by the odd game both at dominoes and darts.

The Club's New Year Party was held on Saturday, 9th January, at the "Swan-with-Two-Necks," Manchester. The Chairman of the Club referred to the sad death of Miss Dorothy Pain, and paid tribute to one who for very many years had rendered valuable services to St. Dunstan's. A period of silence was observed standing.

Our guests at this party included Miss Vaughan-Davies, Miss Doel, Welfare Visitor, and Mrs. Jackson, of Longsight.

After dinner the Chairman gave the Loyal Toast—Her Majesty, the Duke of Lancaster. Then followed a short homely speech by Miss Vaughan-Davies who concluded with a toast, "To St. Dunstaners everywhere."

The Chairman, extended a very warm welcome to all the guests and expressed sincere thanks to the honorary officers of the Club, and to all wives and escorts for their kindly help at all meetings and functions of the Club.

Thanks to the hotel management and staff was expressed by Mr. W. McCarthy, Vice-Chairman.

The evening was given over to games and some dancing, these being interspersed with the laughter-raising entertainment of Mr. Johnny Riley and Mr. Charles Edwards.

Carriages were timed for 9.30 p.m. but at 10.30 p.m. the greater part of the "revellers" were putting finishing touches to a very grand party.

J. SHAW, *Club Chairman.*

We Hear That . . .

Arthur Stevens, of Reading, thinks his family may hold a record among St. Dunstaners. His father is 93 and his mother 95, and they have been married more than sixty-eight years. This wonderful couple had three daughters and four sons. Two sons were killed and Arthur was blinded in the 1914-18 war. Mr. Stevens senior, worked until he was over eighty.

★ ★ ★

Their golden wedding on November 24th was celebrated in grand style by Mr. and Mrs. E. Denny, of Pretoria. The African Consolidated Theatres were holding their Golden Jubilee also, and in a contest in which one thousand couples took part, our St. Dunstaner and his wife were awarded the title of, "South Africa's Mr. and Mrs. Golden Jubilee." The honour has given them a life pension of £100 per annum and a free pass to all the theatres of the company.

★ ★ ★

Fifteen St. Dunstaners were entertained in Belfast by Mrs. E. W. Wright, J.P., of the Not Forgotten Association. St. Dunstaner Alex Scott proposed Mrs. Wright's health in an excellent speech. Mrs. Wright takes a great interest in Belfast St. Dunstaners, and was a visitor at Ovingdean in October.

From the Chairman's Postbag

DEAR MR. ENGELMANN,

I listen seldom to Talking Books because I am so occupied, but over Christmas I listened to Forester's "Mr. Midshipman Hornblower," read by you. I enjoyed the tale very much; indeed, it is one of the best of its kind I have read.

I congratulate you most heartily upon your reading. It is so easy to listen to, runs most smoothly and when characterisation is necessary you do this admirably. I consider your treatment of this book a work of art. Yours sincerely,

IAN FRASER.

DEAR SIR IAN,

I am most grateful for your letter. The comments you make on my reading of "Midshipman Hornblower" make me very proud indeed. I value your praise very highly since I know it is not given lightly.

May I wish you and St. Dunstan's a successful and happy year.

Yours sincerely,
FRANKLIN ENGELMANN.

DEAR SIR IAN,

The idea occurred to me some time ago that use might be made of the Morse code for communicating with people who are blind and deaf. Your visit to John Proctor reminded me of the idea. I am no expert, but in 1914 I passed an exam. as a telegraphist in India and though I was wounded a few months later, I never lost the ability to use a Morse key. My idea was that vibrations could be transmitted to the deaf person by means of a buzzer. These could easily be picked up by the sensitive fingers of a blind person. It could be even done by means of bone conduction. A speed of twenty-eight words a minute could be attained by a sighted person writing a message down, but a blind person would have to memorise, and that would be a slower process.

It is also possible, I think, that if the vibrations from a loud speaker were transmitted direct to the fingers of a blind person, he would get a good idea of what was going over the air. Wally Thomas gets a kick out of a boxing match by getting the vibrations from the set. Perhaps this could be done scientifically by means of a special adaptor. I think there are possibilities.

CHARLES T. KELK.

Our Research Engineer writes:

The Morse code is the most obvious system that comes to mind when trying to find a simple method of conversing with the deaf-blind, but it has many disadvantages.

Deaf-blind people could no doubt learn the Morse code very easily, but it would be of very little use to them because the majority of people do not know the code and it takes rather a long time to learn. The manual alphabet generally used is very simple and can be learned in a quarter of an hour.

Any system which requires apparatus such as a vibrator that Mr. Kelk suggests becomes a nuisance for a deaf-blind person to carry around, especially if batteries have to be replaced from time to time.

If an apparatus is to be used at all, there is a new machine called the "Arcaid" which writes, in Braille, messages tapped out on a keyboard similar to a typewriter, and any stranger could use this immediately without having to learn a new code.

All St. Dunstan's deaf men know of the "Arcaid" and if any one of them would like to have the machine, we will provide it with pleasure. P. B. NYE.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

May I comment on the statement in the November REVIEW that "many St. Dunstaners did not reply to the kind invitation of Mrs. Jackson" to the annual party in memory of her son. Can there be any excuse for this appalling lack of good manners and courtesy? I write as Chairman of the Manchester Club and not as a judge of the actions or lack of courtesy of my fellow St. Dunstaners, and I feel it a duty to state that our members did answer the kind invitation by turning up in good numbers, and we were entertained in lavish manner both at the tables and at the party which followed. We are grateful to Mrs. Jackson for her kindness and for the practical way in which she commemorates this occasion.

To continue my observations on a matter such as this, I feel that there is no more certain way of "killing" the interest of our many kindhearted friends than by ignoring their invitations to functions arranged for our benefit. We always turn up in large numbers at our own reunions, and an occasion such as the one referred to can be a reunion on a smaller scale if only we make a special effort when we are requested to attend.

That there are difficulties at times in the way of some of us attending these functions we all appreciate, but I see no excuse for failing to observe the courtesy of replying to invitations which have so much human kindness behind them.

Yours sincerely,

J. SHAW.

DEAR EDITOR,

I must tell you of the immense pleasure I derive from listening to the Talking Book. Many of these books I have read before, but this fact does not detract from the enjoyment received. The definite styles of the readers I find most interesting. One reader coughed once or twice, then he filled a glass with water, and drank it. This gave a very pleasant feeling that I was in personal contact with him. Some readers dramatise their voices and I myself do not like this, but this is a matter of opinion.

When I am waiting for a new book, I must confess to a certain tinge of excitement, wondering what the book will be, who is the author, and who the reader.

The book, "Through Time and Space," I strongly recommend for those interested in astronomy. It is extremely well read and increases one's wonderment of the facts of the Universe. I have always been interested in the planets and stars, but after listening to this book I was filled with regret that I had not read it years ago.

I have always been passionately fond of reading and dreaded the time when I should be unable to do so. But on entering the blind world with its most interesting and wonderful system of the six dots alphabet and the Talking Book Library so wonderfully organised, I find that all my worries need not have been. "Life is still good." Yours sincerely,
Hull. W. W. THOMPSON.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was interested in T. Roger's letter under the heading "Is it coincidence." I should like to add to this, "Is it presentiment or premonition." Here is an account of something which happened to me in December, 1915. At that time I was out in France in the trenches. Then one night my mother had a very realistic dream, so realistic that it worried her a great deal. She dreamt that I was standing at the door asking to be allowed to come in; she looked at me and said, "You cannot come in, you should be with your Regiment." Then she looked again and saw I was holding my hand over my eyes and I was saying, "Oh Mother, it is my eyes." Three nights after this I was wounded while on night sentry. The weapon was either a machine gun or an automatic of some sort, for I was shot clean through the head—in one side and out the other—by two bullets which went behind both eyes, while a third bullet went in on a level with the eyebrows a little further back than the other two. This third bullet had no exit, and as I have never had an X-ray, I do not know what happened to that except that it should have definitely killed me. I was totally blind for a short while and then some sight came back to one part of the eye.

In a previous article in the magazine there was mention made of no fear of death. When I was wounded, I did not lose consciousness for some little while but put down my rifle, sat down in the firing step and called for the stretcher bearers. I was losing a lot of blood and had already

found out what my wound was, so naturally thought that when I did go off, there would be no awakening. So I thought, what can I do with the last twenty minutes of life? I decided to go in the tradition of the Regiment, "No surrender." So I laughed and joked to pass the time away until the end should come. The day after I came to and was very surprised to find I was still alive. I asked where I was and was told I was in an ambulance going to meet a train en route for hospital at Abbeville.

It might interest readers to know that my Platoon Officer was at that time none other than the well-known "Christopher Stone," who finished up Major Christopher Stone, D.S.O., M.C., the Regiment being the Royal Fusiliers.

Yours sincerely,
H. J. HARRISS.

Billerica.

DEAR EDITOR,

I hope I cause no sur spence amongst those literary blokes with my spelling, and my attempt to be a ruddy Kipling. If they think it's mudge, it is just because they are g. ellis. This is what I call

Keeping Fit at Ovingdean

I arrived at St. Dunstan's one bright sunny May,
And feeling quite weary, I'd travelled all day,
Never expected what I should find—
Everyone happy and ever so kind—
I sat in the Lounge. I felt no remorse
As there's nothing so bad but might have
been worse.

After there a few weeks it was heaven on earth
But I very soon found that I was increasing
in girth,
Then I thought of the gym and that's just
the place
Where a chap can soon get his pose and his
grace.
So early next morning in my pants and my
vest
I went to the gym to pick up my chest.

I am not going to say just what I went
through
But just on the quiet, between me and you,
The gym is alright but that horse is a curse.
When I came out I went in reverse. . .
I met a big chap, he seemed to be rushing,
I bounced off his middle like a ball off a
cushing.

Now if you big chaps with a bread-basket
line
Would try a few jerks it would do you just
fine,
It would do you no harm and you could not
do worse
If you tried a wee canter on St. Dunstan's
horse.

Newcastle-on-Tyne.

BILLY BELL.

DEAR EDITOR,

As a St. Dunstan's Padre I want to make
two protests.

I do not like swearing at any time, and
I think blind people should be particularly
careful not to swear or use bad language
because they do not know who may be
passing by them at the time.

Secondly, I realise that Sweepstakes are
a tradition in St. Dunstan's, but I do not
think we should give official recognition
to any sweepstake which is connected with
a religious denomination.

Yours sincerely,

Spratton, Northants.

D. S. J. PETTIT.

Coincidence

Some months ago, my sister, who lives
nearly a hundred miles from me, bought
from an expensive shop in Manchester
sufficient material to have a dance dress
made for herself.

Some weeks later I, too, went to Man-
chester for an evening dress, but bought
mine ready-made from a large multiple
shop, which specialises in "Clothes to suit
every purse."

When my sister paid me a visit recently
she brought a small piece of her material
to show us what her dress was like, and
to our amazement it was identical in every
respect with the material of my own dress.
It was obviously from the same roll.

What a good thing it is that we live
such a distance from each other and cannot
possibly attend the same dances.

MARGARET STANWAY.

Grandfathers

W. Clamp, of Wolverton; Rex
Furness, M.B.E., of Warrington; J. Lomas,
of Walthamstow; H. Smith, of Golcar;
W. Stamp, of Grimsby; H. Maher, of
London, S.E.1; R. Robinson, of Cookstown,
N. Ireland.

The Episode of Sohrab and Rustum

For some months past I have been visiting a deaf-blind man in an institution in my neighbourhood. He is sixty-three and has a passion for writing Braille. Our means of communication is by a recognised hand sign system. His power of speech is not at all good and at times I have difficulty in understanding what he says. From time to time I have translated quite a number of his literary efforts with the hope that perhaps there might be something that would earn him some pocket money. At one visit I was handed an unusually large parcel of Braille and promised to do my best. In my spare time I waded through ten pages of single-line type, each page taking an hour to translate. A wonderful story unfolded with names that reminded me of the Decameron. The subject of the poem, in my ignorance, was entirely new to me. I took the ten pages of type back to my friend and asked where on earth he had come across such names and ideas. He remembered reading the story in print many years ago, he said.

On the first Saturday of the New Year I procured a pass to take my friend to meet other deaf-blind people at a party. It was the first time he had been out for many years. The Red Cross had been good enough to provide me with a lady volunteer driver and a small van. We went from the institution to collect another deaf-blind man. They sat together and began to converse on their hands. Meanwhile, I sat with the lady driver and told her about the remarkable outpourings of Braille and verses I had been translating. To my surprise she told me that two names, Sohrab and Rustum, rang a bell; that she would look it up and let me know about it later. I passed the ten pages to her.

It is all quite clear to me now. My Red Cross lady driver has returned the pages, together with her little volume of Matthew Arnold containing the Episode of Sohrab and Rustum. It has been read to me for the first time in my life. The hosts of the Tartars and Persians on the sands of the Oxus Stream are all there. All that Braille I had already gone through, dot by dot. Call it a photographic mind, or what you will. I can only thank my deaf-blind friend for bringing me a gem of English verse.

Streatham.

W. T. SCOTT.

Beyond the Dawn

I have felt for a very long time that the REVIEW owes me quite a number of pages, for it is indeed some while since any words of mine have been printed, but I will be content with the front page and without a photograph.

But what have I to say on this first Sunday of 1954? I am not in the least concerned as to whether you call the "dear ladies" Sister or not; neither do I wish to add my thoughts as to the literary qualities of the REVIEW. Who am I that I should set myself up as a literary critic? I have never been in a winning pair or four on the river, or walked from London to Brighton. No darts team has ever required my services and I can claim distinction in only one sphere of St. Dunstan's activities. I was a member of the Bridge Club, and, may I say, one of its founders. In this respect I must have been extremely good for it is very rare in these days that I hear of the Club winning a match. We did win matches a few years ago. Can it be premature old age?

I have a purpose in writing, and it is a serious one. For some two years I have been laid aside through ill health. For over a year I have been at home, and little beyond my own doorstep. Bridge and the theatre were amongst my chief pleasures of life and at the moment I cannot enjoy either. My home smells the sweeter, for my pipe is on the shelf, but I do not miss smoking. True, I have the joys of reading and listening, but life will always be limited and yet, in these past two years I have found something, or should I say I have been given something, which has more than compensated me for all else. Oh yes, that is possible. St. Dunstan's has given its members much in the material sense. In one way or another, most have been able to do some work because of its training, but can we measure the true value of the greatest of all gifts, the loyalty of friends? We have all found a companionship, and fellowship, not only amongst ourselves, but with those with whom we have come into contact, but I am thinking more of the friendship amongst ourselves. We are British, and should hold ourselves with great dignity and not allow our thoughts or feelings to escape us. But why not? If the Editor thinks this is worth printing, I am not going to apologise

for what I have written. How often do I turn the canvas and live once again the many happy days spent in the company of my colleagues; not only the members of the Bridge Club, but so many others whose company has been my pleasure oft-times over the years. I look back with infinite joy on the many discussions at the "local"; what did we talk about? Politics, books, theatres, and how many times would we have put the world on its feet again. These memories are my great treasures. There are so many pictures which come back to me—Brighton, Harrogate, Ilkley. . . The companionships which we have found and enjoyed so much have given us knowledge and assurance in meeting the sighted world. St. Dunstan's has rendered to its members an indefinable something by which, perhaps unconsciously, we have been helped to live our lives not just amongst ourselves, but with others outside our organisation; something which is ever present and eternal. Because of this I would not have missed the last two years of my life for anything in the world. And as I write my rambling thoughts, I think of those who have served St. Dunstan's with such devotion, many of whom are not with us to-day.

We are so prone to think that we are a law unto ourselves, but really we are dependent upon each other. No, indeed, I am not content. There are occasions when I want to break every pane of glass in the house, but over and above it all, I have found a serenity and a quiet mind which will be of inestimable value for many years to come. Yet I am so conscious of what I have received from my colleagues over the years, and especially the past two, I am compelled to say, "Thanks, always."

Gentlemen, I give you a toast, not for just this year but for all time, "The Loyalty of Friends." If this gift be given to you, life will not be quite so difficult. And for the years which follow, and I anticipate a good number yet, two lines from Robert Browning come aptly to my mind:

"Grow old along with me!

The best is yet to be."

REG. P. COLES.

Christmas at St. Dunstan's, 1953

The hallowed festival of Christmas is by tradition the occasion upon which the scattered members of a family and those whom we hold dear are united, perhaps

in person or just merely in thought. These sentiments apply in no small measure to St. Dunstan's at Christmastide. Old friends unite, memories are revived and the "good old days" at West House and Blackpool are recounted, but all are united by bond of brotherhood.

Festivities commenced on Christmas Eve with a gala performance of Aladdin, given in the Music Hut. The show, which was ably written by Miss Who Flung Smith and produced by Miss Lotus Bud Carlton, was enthusiastically received by a capacity audience, among whom we were pleased to greet the Chairman and Lady Fraser. Miss Gray showed great talent as Aladdin and her vocal duets with Mrs. Joan Osborne, who proved a charming princess, were of special merit. George Killingbeck, temporarily relinquishing his duties as Braille teacher, was provided with an equally villainous role as the Magician. Widow Twankey and the Genie of the Lamp were excellently portrayed by members of the staff, and mention must also be made of the splendid chorus. A vote of thanks to the artists and those responsible for the production was later moved by Sir Ian.

Christmas morning dawned grey and wet, but spirits remained high and all seemed affected with the Christmas spirit. Many attended Morning Service in the Chapel, which was preceded by Holy Communion.

At 11 a.m. all were assembled in the lounge for the distribution of parcels from the Christmas tree by one, Max Miller. Bacchus intervened first, however, and port wine, the gift of the Grocers' Association, was drained to the very dregs from some 120 upturned glasses. At length the Cheekie Chappie arrived and the process of distributing the presents began.

Some lively piano music now ensued, rendered by one, Alfie, Max's accompanist, a blind man. Max followed this musical interlude by some of his own songs and a selected reading from his blue book, which judging from the laughter it provoked seemed well up to the comedian's particular standard. It may have been coincidence, but as Mr. Miller announced the title of his next song number, incidentally one which has been banned from the B.B.C., a depressed file of V.A.D's with clasped hands and downcast eyes was seen to file out of the lounge into the nether regions. It was their lunch time!

The amount and the quality of the Christmas Dinner defies the imagination. A joint reading by Matron and Commandant of numerous greetings telegrams from friends of St. Dunstan's brought the occasion to a happy ending.

The highlight of the evening was an impromptu concert held in the lounge at 8 p.m., arranged by Mrs. Macdonald and compered by the Commandant who, on such occasions, seems possessed of a limitless store of anecdotes and stories, although his volume is of a lighter blue than that of Mr. Miller.

Two London cabaret artists, Sylvia Brent and Jim Bennett, rendered a selection of popular songs after which Miss Smith, suitably garbed in the habit of a charlady, gave us one of her own monologues. Its quality of wit and humour is what we have grown to expect of Smithy; we were literally in stitches at her conclusion. Bill Young's rendering of Negro spirituals also gave great pleasure.

Jacko now followed with two popular song numbers of an earlier generation, displaying a talent worthy of any music hall artist.

We paused now for an interval during which coffee and delicately cut sandwiches filled with the choicest of savouries were served by eager smiling V.A.D's. Appetites appeased, for the time being at least, the show was resumed with a comic sketch starring Messrs. Bickerton and Reeves. The scene was a theatrical agent's office and our two worthies portrayed the parts of two dubious female characters pertaining to that profession. Any vacancies for escorts?

Our impromptu concert was now drawing to its closing numbers. Charles Campkin, possessed of a pleasantly modulated voice, sang three popular ballads and was followed as if on an afterthought, by Mr. Bedford, who recounted two of his amusing "short" stories. But now it was a little after ten and the day's festivities were, alas, over.

Boxing Day was, if anything, a little less hectic. In the afternoon many availed themselves of the opportunity to witness one of the number of excellent pantomimes at present running in Brighton. The highlight of the day was the traditional fancy dress ball held in the lounge at 8. Most conspicuous among the prizewinners were beaming Maxie as a quite adorable Boko and with Mrs. Comer as the infant's nurse.

Other prizewinners were George Fallowfield as a chef, Jack Greaves as Queen of Tonga and Miss Downward as November in Brighton.

Congratulations also to the vociferous "braves," Blodwyn and Thelma, from Port Hall; George Jolly as Picasso in Three D; Miss Gray as the sultry denizen of a harem, and Mike Delaney's Flying Saucer.

Thus our Ovingdean Christmas passed, a full and happy one, memorable not only for the abundance of Christmas fare and good entertainment, but also for those more intangible qualities of good cheer and fellowship. In conclusion may we extend our thanks to the staff at Ovingdean for their tireless and efficient service which contributed in no small measure to our memorable Ovingdean Christmas.

PETER J. HARRIS.

St. Dunstan's 1918-1954

In Regent's Park, London, North-West
Is a place controlled by one of the best;
St. Dunstan's, they call it, for soldiers and sailors,
Where soon they are taught to be jolly good Brailliers.

Those who live there, I think might tell,
Have been in some trouble—don't see very well.
Ask them if they're happy. The answer is "Rather!
Can't be anything else with Sir Arthur as Father."

Everything runs quite smoothly along,
In the workshops one hears but laughter and song.
Massage, poultry, typing and Braille,
The boys learn quickly, and none of them fail.

The staff work hard from morning till night,
And everything there is merry and bright;
Boys laughing and chaffing and reading some Braille;
Some ragging or smoking or telling the tale.

With Sir Arthur as pilot the boys all feel sure
Of success in life when they leave his door;
He came as a God-send, as everyone knows,
And dearer each day to the boys he grows.

Remember boys, when you seem down on your luck
To "stick it" and show them you've still got some
pluck.

And remember Sir Arthur looks after you all
Who have come back to darkness through answering
"the call."

ALAN NICHOLS, *January, 1918.*

Sir Arthur gave us our chance: we took it with
both hands,
Yes, boys from the Old Country, and from far
distant lands,
To him we owe a debt, let us continue our appreciation.
So carry on, St. Dunstaner friends, with confidence
and determination.

ALAN NICHOLS, *January, 1954.*

Ovingdean Notes (Improved)

The event which marked the early part of December was the ceremony which preceded the massed march up to Marylebone Road in protest against the letter published in the REVIEW. There was cheering and brass band music to set the party off on this pilgrimage although the cheering was weak and the brass band off-key. Nevertheless, one bugle and three slightly laconic Boy Scouts did their best to hearten the Protest Marchers. They started off, banner fluttering, four weeks ago and we still haven't heard of the three brave St. Dunstaners. Maybe their martyrdom will bring forth a repentant Stewart Spence.

The next function of interest was the Surprise Novelty dance. The novelty was the fact that the dance started at 8 a.m. till 10.30 a.m., instead of the usual unimaginative evening affair. The surprise was really a surprise for we had secretly invited fifty inmates of the local Home for Retired Lady Wrestlers to act as partners.

Another occurrence quite unique in the day-by-day routine of Ovingdean was when one of the drivers on the weekly bus trip stopped his vehicle at Rottingdean and suggested that it would be a scream if one of the St. Dunstaners drove the rest of the way. It was a bit of a swindle really because the lucky one from the thirty-three volunteers could see a little and many people pointed out later that it was an advantage which helped him to set such a high standard. The coach finished up nestling snugly against the gents' lavatory on the undercliff.

I think the outstanding feature of this merry month was the rehearsal for the Christmas Dinner. We decided to use the Army idea of the men waiting on the officers and staff. Matron, Commandant and all the V.A.D.s sat down one lunch time and the boys had a trial run. We had two T.B. chaps serving the food from the servery and forty-three holiday men and trainees did their best to feed the staff. It is reported that Com. got no less than five plates of soup (on his lap) and Matron had to wait thirty-five minutes while one of the one-armed chaps cut her meal up for her. By 5.25 the whole thing was over and although there was room for improvement, the boys felt that another four or

five rehearsals would make all the difference. I regret to say that the Commandant and Matron decided after all to shelve the idea for the present.

As I write, a committee is in session discussing the possibility of dropping the weekly domino tournament in favour of a cross country paper chase. There are certain opponents to this plan, but we all feel that it is time we showed the outside world just how much we can do. I hope to make a fuller report on this and on the scheme to use trench mortars on the shooting range in next month's issue.

GEORGE ELLIS.

Births

BARLOW. On January 19th, to the wife of J. R. Barlow, of Hillsboro, Sheffield, a daughter—Denise.

BIRCHALL.—On December 17th, to the wife of J. W. Birchall, of Blackpool, a daughter.

BURNS.—On December 29th, to the wife of M. Burns, of Westcliff-on-Sea, a son—Michael John.

DANIEL.—To the wife of N. Daniel, of Burnham-on-Sea, a daughter.

FAULKNER.—To the wife of W. D. Faulkner, of Erdington, Birmingham, a daughter.

FORSTER.—On January 12th, to the wife of R. Forster, of Leeds, a daughter.

FULLING.—On December 17th, to the wife of J. J. Fulling, of London, N.4, a son—Stuart John.

PETTY.—On December 22nd, to the wife of H. Petty, of Leeds, a son.

STOKES.—On January 14th, to Mrs. Sadie Stokes, of Pendleton, Salford, a son—Thomas James Henry.

Mr. Rowley Retires

Mr. J. de la Mare Rowley, General Editor of the National Institute for the Blind for thirty-two years, retired on January 1st.

Mr. Rowley in 1919 worked for St. Dunstan's and the N.I.B. under Sir Arthur Pearson, and for two years edited the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW.

As General Editor of the N.I.B. he has controlled all letterpress, Braille and Moon publications, and advised in the selection of Talking Books.

The good wishes of hundreds of his friends will go with Mr. Rowley in his retirement.

“ In Memory ”

Private Thomas McGuire, *Northumberland Fusiliers*

We record with deep regret the death of T. McGuire, of Drogheda, Eire. He was 70. Enlisting at the beginning of the First World War, he served until his discharge in 1919, but during that time he had been gassed and had lost an eye.

In 1930 he came to St. Dunstan's and trained in basket-making, poultry-keeping and typewriting. Following the loss of his wife some time ago, his health deteriorated considerably and he died on December 5th at his home in Ireland.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the flowers at the funeral. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his relatives, and to Mrs. Byrne, who cared for him during the last weeks of his life.

Private Arthur Horrell, *8th Devon Salvage Company*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. Horrell, of Treorchy. He enlisted in 1914 and three years later was wounded in France, losing the sight of both eyes. He came to St. Dunstan's where he trained as a boot repairer. His health had not been good for a number of years and he died on December 22nd.

Three St. Dunstaners—Messrs. A. Caple and D. J. Williams of Cardiff, and E. Owen, of Cwmpark—were present at the funeral. The flowers included Sir Ian's wreath of poppies.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Horrell and her son.

Private Frank Scott, *9th East Surrey Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of F. Scott, of Langley, at the age of fifty-five. He entered St. Dunstan's immediately on his discharge from the Army in March, 1919, and he trained as a basket-maker. He died on January 3rd.

Sir Ian Fraser's wreath was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to Mrs. Scott and her son.

Private George Southen, *Royal Army Veterinary Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of G. Southen, of Folkestone. He was eighty-one. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's benefits first in September, 1920, and then in April, 1924, and he worked as a boot repairer until 1935. His health had been deteriorating for some time and he had spent long periods at West House. He passed away there on December 20th.

He leaves three grown-up children to whom our deep sympathy is offered.

Wreaths from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades, and from West House, were among the flowers at the funeral.

Rifleman Alfred Cook, *4/7 Rifle Brigade*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. Cook, of Brighton. He died in West House on December 15th, at the age of sixty-five.

He first came to St. Dunstan's upon his discharge from the Army in October, 1916, and then again on September 1st, 1920. He trained as a mat-maker and carried on with this craft for many years. His health, however, became very bad and he had spent the past year at West House.

He leaves a widow, who has herself been in hospital for a year, and to whom our deep sympathy goes.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a poppy wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's comrades.

Charles William Raven and E. R. Musgrave, *Australian Forces*

We have heard with deep regret of the deaths of two of our Australian St. Dunstaners, although the details are few.

E. R. Musgrave, of Tamworth, New South Wales, had been on our Overseas List for several years, and information has only just reached us that he died in August, 1951, as a result of his war injuries.

C. W. Raven, of Inverell, New South Wales, was gassed in the First World War.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Raven and Mrs. Musgrave.

Deaths

Our very sincere sympathy goes out to the following:

BROWN.—To G. P. (“Jock”) Brown, of Chiswick, who has lost his mother.

FIRTH.—To C. Firth, of Heswall, whose mother died on October 4th, aged 80.

FROST.—To H. Frost, of New Moston, Manchester, whose mother died on January 10th, at the age of 77.

MASH.—To J. F. C. Mash, of St. Helier, Channel Islands, whose father has died.

★ ★ ★

Many early St. Dunstaners will hear with regret of the death of Miss “Mollie” Crompton who helped in the Netting Room in 1918 and 1919.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 413—VOLUME XXXVII

FEBRUARY, 1954

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

A WOMAN came into my office at St. Dunstan's one day to talk over a matter of business. She said: "Last year, Sir Ian, you wrote me so and so. This year you wrote me something different." And she read out a paragraph from my last year's letter and from this year's letter and pointed out an inconsistency between them and asked me to explain it to her.

The woman had kept my letters in a file and had taken them out of the file herself and made extracts from them which she had brought with her. All this, you will say, was quite the usual thing that any person might do who was preparing to make a case, but this woman was blind.

When she got my letters, which were typewritten, she had put them in an Optophone, a machine that translates typewriting and print into a code of sounds which are intelligible. With the help of this machine she was then able to read the correspondence, after which she made a Braille note on the letters of the date and the reference so that she could easily get it out of the file, identify it and, if need be, read it over in the Optophone once again.

So far as I know, Miss Mary Jameson, M.B.E., for that is the woman's name, is the only blind person in the world who can handle her correspondence in such a manner, though there are two other people, students of hers, who, she tells me, are getting on pretty well too.

The idea of the Optophone was invented by a British subject, Dr. Fournier D'Albe, some forty years ago, and was demonstrated by him before the Royal Society, but it was not until the famous firm of rangefinder manufacturers and lens makers, Messrs. Barr and Stroud, of Glasgow, took up this machine just after the First World War that it was made into practicable form.

When the Second World War was nearing its end, however, I did institute some research work to ascertain if the electronic knowledge that had been so rapidly developed in connection with radar and other war-time inventions might not have made it possible for a new attempt to be made to translate print into sound so that blind people might read ordinary books.

With the aid of a very well qualified Scientific Advisory Committee, of which Professor Adrian, O.M., was the Chairman, and of a special grant, we at St. Dunstan's conducted in our own laboratories a series of experiments in this field. American workers also conducted a parallel series of tests. Unfortunately neither of us has improved upon the Optophone sufficiently to justify its manufacture for general adoption, but there is no question that as a result of the experiments made by the St. Dunstan's Research Department, it has proved to be of the greatest possible value to Miss Jameson and her friends. Nevertheless we have reluctantly come to the conclusion that no invention available, or any that can at present be contemplated, is likely successfully to convert ordinary print into sound that is readily intelligible to ordinary blind people.

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ST. DUNSTAN'S
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There are, however, to my knowledge three or four Optophones still in existence, and in order to keep the art alive we have brought the Optophones up to date by providing them with modern valves and electronic equipment, and we keep them in order and see that they are working properly.

Miss Jameson herself still does a great deal of her work by means of the Optophone, and apart from typewritten letters she can read books with a fair degree of fluency. And because of her personal success with the machine, I am naturally sometimes asked by my other blind friends why this wonderful invention cannot be made more widespread for the use of the blind as a whole. But as I have indicated, extensive experiments have proved that the code is not sufficiently readable to justify greater production—and there would have to be a very large number of Optophones manufactured before the high cost could be substantially reduced and thus make it an economic proposition. There is, too, another point. Although Miss Jameson has certainly become highly skilled with the Optophone after many years of practice—most blind people would find it very hard indeed to read at all. Even Miss Jameson can only reach a speed of 40 words a minute if the size of the print and the context is clear, which is rather less than the speed of the morse code.

Nevertheless, the blind world is indebted to her for this quite unique and remarkable bit of research work to which she has devoted her life. King George V awarded her the M.B.E. for this work, but he died before the Investiture, and Miss Jameson thus became one of the very few to receive an award from the hands of King Edward VIII.

Blind since she was a little girl, Miss Jameson is Honorary Organiser for St. Dunstan's in the Norwood District.

IAN FRASER.

High Honour for Canadian St. Dunstaner

Our congratulations to Captain M. C. Robinson, M.B.E., a St. Dunstaner of the First World War, who has been elected President of the American Association of Workers for the Blind.

This honour is a fitting recognition of the fine work which Captain Robinson has done over many years for the blind—both ex-Service and civilian—in North America.

Captain Robinson follows in the footsteps of another St. Dunstaner—Colonel E. A. Baker—who some years ago became the first blind Canadian to hold this high office.

Mr. Alan Robbins

Mr. Alan Pitt Robbins, a member of St. Dunstan's Council, who, as reported last month received the C.B.E. in the New Year Honours List, has been appointed the first official Secretary of the newly constituted General Council of the Press. Mr. Robbins was News Editor of *The Times* until his retirement last year.

College Reunion

Third College Reunion, Saturday, 24th April, 12.30 to 5.30 p.m. Single tickets, 15s.; Double tickets, 27s. 6d., obtainable from W. T. Scott, 46 Leigham Avenue, Streatham, S.W.16.

Literature for the Blind

A Post Office Concession

Literature for the blind may now be sent abroad (except to the Irish Republic) by surface mail free of postage.

Such packets up to 2lbs. in weight for European destinations will continue to be sent by air whenever this will result in earlier delivery. For destinations outside Europe, the present air mail rates of 3d. per two ounces remains unchanged.

Placements

C. J. Nichols, in the Inspection Department of Messrs. Vickers-Armstrong, Ltd., Weybridge, Surrey; R. Cameron, as Home Teacher to the Civilian Blind under Middlesex County Council (Wembley Area).

Chess

We have recently received a braille copy of the book, "Two Hundred Chess Miniatures," comprising three volumes. Would anybody interested in reading this book please apply to Mr. C. D. Wills, Welfare Department.

Grandfathers

A. T. Hedger, of Herne Bay; A. W. Back, of Shaldon, near Teignmouth (a sixth grandchild, born in South Africa); H. Payne, of Grangetown, Cardiff; G. Fallowfield, a granddaughter, in Australia, after four grandsons; and R. Stanners, a grandson after four grand-daughters!

London Club Notes

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Club on Friday, January 15th. Mr. Ashton presided for the first half of the meeting, then Mr. Wills took the chair, as Mr. Askew was indisposed.

The following are the members of the Committee who were elected for the coming year:—

Messrs. P. Ashton (Chairman), W. Bishop and S. Webster (Bridge Section), W. Miller and C. Williamson (Outdoor Section), C. Walker (Indoor Section). Mr. C. Stafford is the seventh member.

The Committee look forward to another successful year. The Club is open from 5 to 10 p.m. on every week-night except Wednesday, and from 2 until 10 p.m. on Saturdays. Come along and enjoy good company, good food and a warm welcome.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge

The first match of the year was against our friends of Hicomind, (4 a side) on January 16th. After a very keenly contested game, we lost by the narrow margin of 310.

Against a team of eight from the Air Ministry on January 30th, we suffered another defeat, our opponents thus reversing last year's decision.

Tiny Fleming's team in the L.B.H. League, made a drastic start this year by losing their first four games.

P. Nuyens' team in the L.B.H. League lost their first match of the year by 11 match points. This was a good performance on their part as their opponents were undefeated. They followed this up by an even better one. They beat the same team, Aquarius, on the return, by 16 match points.

W. BISHOP.

Outdoor Section

Very cold weather and illness had a bad effect on the ten mile walk at Regent's Park on January 23rd, for only seven men were there to compete.

The start was slow and all were happy just to keep warm, for to get hot could easily mean a chill later. Archie Brown, Bill Miller and Pat Cryan grouped together, were followed by Stan Tutton, Charles Stafford, Les Dennis, with Jerry Lynch bringing up the rear.

After five miles Archie and Billy increased the pace slightly to shake Pat off, then at seven miles, due to the cold and insufficient training, Les Dennis had to retire. Billy

took the lead after about 7½ miles, and thus the position remained to the finish. All were thankful to return to the dressing room and get into warmer clothing. Pat Cryan won the handicap, with Archie Brown second and Jerry Lynch third. The prizes were presented to the winners by Bill Shakespeare.

W. M.

St. Dunstan's Ten Mile Walk

Regent's Park, Saturday, 23rd January, 1954

Finish	Act. Time	H ^{cp.} All.	H ^{cp.} Time in	Pos. H ^{cp.}
1. W. Miller ...	90-50	Scr.	90-50	4
2. A. Brown ...	92-07	2-50	89-17	2
3. P. Cryan ...	93-50	5-00	88-50	1
4. S. Tutton ...	101-48	8-00	93-48	5
5. C. Stafford ...	108-03	13-20	94-43	6
6. J. Lynch ...	114-10	24-30	89-40	3
7. L. Dennis—	Did not finish.			

Winner of the Handicap and the "Fitureite" Trophy, P. Cryan.

Second, A. Brown.

Third, J. Lynch.

Timekeeper and Handicapper, Mr. W. J. Harris, R.W.A.

The points for the Aggregate Cup up to and including the last walk are as follows:—

T.B. SECTION:—

S. Tutton ...	...	...	...	12 points
C. Stafford ...	...	...	...	10 "
C. Williamson ...	...	...	...	7 "

S.S. SECTION:—

W. Miller ...	...	...	...	18 "
A. Brown ...	...	...	...	13 "
P. Cryan ...	...	...	...	22 "
J. Lynch ...	...	...	...	16 "

★ ★ ★

A description of George Fallowfield's visit to the Cup Final last year appeared in a recent issue of the "Beacon." This month H. R. Driver writes:

"I was profoundly interested and deeply moved by "The Thrill o' t' Cup," Mr. G. Fallowfield's faithfully reconstructed picture of the Blackpool v. Bolton F.A. Cup Final of 1953. That a deaf-blind person should join the jostling thousands at Wembley is to me simply wonderful, and highly significant in two ways: first, as proof of a deep-rooted love of soccer, and secondly (and probably of greater importance) as an illustration of a great courage and determination to retain a grip on life and former interests despite this double handicap. Mr. Fallowfield has surely earned the admiration and envy of all blind sports fans for his will to follow the sport of his choice."

From All Quarters

A full page story by Wally Thomas appeared in the Christmas issue of "Answers."

★ ★ ★

Ron Phillips, of Southwick, and Roy Mendham, of Chadwell Heath, have also been well in the news lately. The *Sussex Daily News* has a long story and an excellent photograph of Ron at his switchboard at Shell-Mex, and the *Daily Sketch*, in headlines, told of Roy's interest in darts.

★ ★ ★

The Guernsey Swimming Club's trophy for the most meritorious swimming achievement of the year has been awarded to H. Kennard, of Battle, who last summer joined in the Club's mass swim of 600 yards. The presentation is being made this month by the Mayors of Brighton and Hastings, at Ovingdean.

★ ★ ★

J. Swales, M.C., of Saltburn-by-the-Sea, has been inducted as an Honorary Member of the Middlesbrough Rotary Club. His particular employment precluded him from qualifying for ordinary membership, and this honour is a tribute to the services he had given to the community of Middlesbrough for many years. Mr. Swales has held high office in many local committees dealing with the blind, the disabled, and the ex-soldier.

★ ★ ★

J. T. Scrymgeour, of Warwick, Queensland (he was awarded the O.B.E. in the New Year Honours), won twenty-one awards at the Royal National Exhibition of Queensland with his Poll Shorthorns, including one for the Champion Bull, and Reserve, of Queensland. At the time of writing, (December), Australia was in the throes of an extreme heat wave, and drastic conditions prevailed in the grazing and pastoral industries.

★ ★ ★

"Snowy" Williams, of Victoria, Auckland, has joined the bowling crowd, says Mrs. Williams. Although a member for only four months, he has already taken six trophies. She and her husband spent a year in this country and only recently returned to Australia. We are glad to think that his stay with us did him a world of good. He was a sick man when he came over.

A. G. Loveridge, of Harrow, has brought to our notice some expanding shoe laces which he thinks will be of interest to St. Dunstaners and in particular, those with arm or hand amputations. Once fixed they require no relacing or retying.

The shoes put on and take off like slippers. They are in black, brown and white, and are called "Kumfee" Expanding shoelaces. The main distributor is Mr. E. J. Richards, 6a Amesbury Crescent, Hove, 3. They cost 6d. a pair.

★ ★ ★

Gustave Envin, St. Dunstaner of the first world war, would welcome his English comrades at his home at Biarritz. The cost would be 1,000 francs a day, including wine and coffee. Gustave himself holds the degrees of M.A. and LL.D., and Mme. Envin is also an M.A.; they are chess players. Last year they welcomed Mr. and Mrs. David Bell. The address is: M. Gustave Envin, Villa Itsas Mendia, Chemin de Salon, Biarritz, Basses-Pyrenees.

Young St. Dunstaners

Jean Jolly (Sheffield) has passed her Shakespeare Certificate for Elocution with Honours.

Sylvia, daughter of S. McCheyne, of Rhyl, has passed the Primary Examination of the London College of Music, with Honours.

Eileen Morgan (York), who is in the W.A.A.F., has had her first promotion.

Trevor Holland (Heswall) has passed Parts I and II for S.R.N., not the complete examination as reported last month.

Frederick Eastwood (Middlesbrough) has gained the bronze life saving medal and four certificates for swimming.

Marriages

Arthur Robinson (Cookstown, Northern Ireland) to Miss Dorothy Miller, in December.

On January 30th, Dennis Dembenski, of Cheltenham.

Frank Rowe (Burslem), on December 19th, to Miss Betty Knight.

Veronica Sheridan, Wishaw, on December 29th, to John Neil.

Joan Watkinson, of Croston, on February 13th, to James Jackson.

On January 6th, Eric Eccleston (Leigh) to Miss June Hindley.

On November 21st, at Llandaff Cathedral, Raymond Lucocq, to Miss Jean Scott.

Miss Pain

Tributes from Overseas

Colonel Derrick Vail, M.D., Consulting Ophthalmologist to the American Forces in the European Theatre during part of the 1939-45 war, and now an eminent Ophthalmic Surgeon in Chicago, writes:—

"Miss Pain was a grand person. I recall her great kindness to me and particularly to the blinded American service people whom she took such good care of in 1943 and 1944."

From Mr. Donald McPhee, O.B.E.:

Miss Pain was an outstanding personality and much beloved by all who knew her, and her long service to St. Dunstan's contributed very largely to the spirit of endeavour that characterises the work of St. Dunstan's throughout the Empire. Her charm and sympathetic understanding of blindness made each individual St. Dunstaner feel that he was the centre of her interest, thus inspiring him to greater effort. Naturally, we were all very disappointed that we did not have the honour of entertaining her in New Zealand early last year, but that was not to be, and those of us who knew her can only retain happy memories of her."

Colonel E. A. Baker, O.B.E., M.C., of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Toronto, writes:—

"While we all knew that she had suffered very ill health earlier in the year, we were all hoping that she might recuperate and still be able to make the trip to Canada. I am amazed that she was able to participate in so many activities even up to within a few days of her passing. However, knowing Miss Pain and her abiding interest in the war blinded, I am sure she derived a great deal of satisfaction from meeting old friends again and in keeping active."

The Braille Review

We must apologise for the fact that in last month's Braille issue there were one or two items which had to be omitted from the printed REVIEW. Where possible these have been included this month.

The printed issue goes to press later than the Braille, and it is therefore possible to include in it late items of news, such as births, deaths, etc.

"And so to Bed"

Bernard MacFadden, the American octogenarian, said to have netted 30 million dollars from the sale of his publications on health and the care of the body, recommends sleeping on boards or the floor as an aid to good health. For myself, I never snuggle up in my six by three without thinking a benediction on the genius who first constructed a bed. This veneration for the shrine of Morpheus created in me a desire to know something about the history of this seductive thief, which claims almost a third of our terrestrial life.

Bedstead is derived from the Indo-Germanic root, "bhodh" (to dig) and "stead" (place), hence "dug-out," where man originally slept. Up to the thirteenth century, beds appear to have been the prerogative of the wealthy; about this time a small model attained a much larger circulation. Soon beds began to grow in size and often measured six by eight feet. "The Great Bed of Ware," said to have been built for Henry VIII's Palace of Nonsuch and now housed in the Victoria and Albert Museum, is seven feet high and twelve feet square. In 1494 a law was passed forbidding upholsterers to use anything but clean dry feathers for stuffing. The necessity for this law is readily understood when we learn that it was common practice to fill mattresses with neat's hair, goats' hair, and even cats' tails.

For a time it became fashionable to spend large sums of money on beds. Ludwig of Bavaria had one built in the design of a cathedral at a cost of £125,000, but he was mad. A Russian Czar presented a Shah of Persia with a bed of solid crystal, approached by three steps of blue glass, on each side a fountain of scented water inducing sleep, whilst above a crystal chandelier glistened like a jewelled basket. What a setting for an Arabian Night's story! The Victorian era brought the four-poster, almost like a small house; then came the iron and wooden bed, not so decorative as its predecessors, but clean and comfortable.

It was Maupassant who said "Bed bounds our whole life; we are born in it, rest in it and die in it."

T. ROGERS.

Canadian Postbag

DEAR EDITOR,

The realisation has come to me at last that I must bestir myself to some manner of literary effort and stop waiting for my fellow Canadian St. Dunstaners to do it for me. In this regard, I must admit that it was the last item from the pen of my old friend, Stewart Spence, which finally did the trick. Believe me, I am not in the smallest way frightened by this task (now that I have finally conquered my lethargy), because I am not, nor have ever pretended to be, a literary giant.

I thought that perhaps some readers of the REVIEW might be interested in the little corner of Canada where I live. My efforts might even give inspiration to others to do the same.

Midway between Vancouver, Canada's largest West Coast seaport and one of the finest natural harbours in the world, and Victoria, our provincial capital, situated at the southern tip of Vancouver Island, lies a group of islands known as the Gulf Islands. These islands lie close to Vancouver Island, and run in a line north and south. They form one side of a protected channel, for which many small craft are sometimes very grateful.

I live on the largest of these islands, which bears the name of Saltspring Island. We have a population of 2,500 and an area of about 150 square miles. Our main industries are logging, fishing, farming and tourism. If you in England were to be suddenly transported to Saltspring, you might for a moment think that you were still in England, because at least fifty per cent. of our population are English and still retain their Old Country accent.

Being islanders we naturally depend on the sea to provide us with the greatest part of our recreation. Practically every family has some sort of water craft and most families have a car; both very necessary means of transportation to us. My delight, of course, is on the water, where I spend most of my summer free time. I love fishing and can sit for hours just cleaning my tackle when the weather is not suitable. You will understand then when I tell you that I am the proprietor of the local Sporting Goods Shop.

Our waters are very tricky to navigate but safe enough when you come to understand them. Our main difficulties come

from our tides, which are very swift and in some places flow faster than most small boats can move. We have tides which flow through narrow channels and reach a velocity of nine or ten knots and create large whirlpools, some as big as a house. Our tide book is our summer bible, because it limits our comings and goings, and even the fish bite better at specified phases of the tide. This latter point is a fact that you have to learn for yourself, however, because no true fisherman will let out the secret of his success.

Our little island abounds in history and legend. The Indians believed that our largest mountain, Mt. Bruce, elevation 2,400 ft., was a living being transmuted into rock. Therefore they did not live here but had their permanent villages on the many other islands. In 1860, the last real battle between tribes of Indians in the Province was fought on our beaches. Actually it was a massacre, because one tribe surprised another group in the early morning as they lay asleep on the beach. According to reports of early settlers who watched the battle, not a man, woman or child was spared.

Sincerely,

Saltspring Island,
British Columbia,
Canada.

TOM BURGE.

★ ★ ★

In a letter Sir Ian has received from Johnny Doucet of Toronto, who was at our Training Centre in 1944, after losing his sight in Italy, he says:—

"This is a busy time of the year for me as I manage a cigar stand at the main Post Office, and licking stamps seems to make the customers very thirsty, and I'm besieged with requests for Coco Cola or hot coffee.

We now have three children. The last one—a boy, Paul—arrived on August 23rd, making two boys and one girl. Life is never dull with three normal active youngsters around."

From A. R. Mallory, of Ottawa, comes this news in a letter to Sir Ian:—

"My family has now increased to five grandchildren.

I am still kept very busy at the canteen. Radio reception has been poor, although I have contacted three oil tankers and some American stations recently.

I had the honour to represent the Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War-blinded at the Coronation ceremonies on Parliament

Hill, here in Ottawa, and attended the reception afterwards. I was also honoured with the Coronation Medal, which I received upon my return from the Amputations Association Convention, which was held in Calgary. I did a lot of fishing in the Ottawa River, catching bass, pickerel, whitefish and pike, which the family really enjoyed.

While in Victoria in September I visited Mr. Cooper and Mr. E. Turner, St. Dunstaners from 1914-1918; they were both well and active."

★ ★ ★

DEAR EDITOR,

This is a little late to be sending Christmas greetings and best wishes for the New Year, but I suppose it is better late than never. The girls here in Canada all join me in sending St. Dunstaners our very best.

Have been going to write to you for some time, as I cut out a letter written by David Ferguson (Canadian St. Dunstan's man), and published in one of our leading American magazines, the "Ladies Home Journal." It was published in the fall, I believe. (It was called "Seeing the World.") I was lucky to hear two lectures given by Pat and Dave on their tandem tours through England, France, Holland, Italy and Spain. Their pictures are really wonderful and they must have had a grand time.

There have been a few changes here in Canada among the girls who were with St. Dunstan's during the war. Morna Barclay was married on June 7th to Alexander Petrie, and they are living in London, Ontario. They had a visit from Dae Finlayson Blanchard this summer, who was in Canada visiting a sister. She used to act as a guide for the visitors who came to the Training Centre at Church Stretton. Margaret Blackmore McClure is now in Ottawa where her husband is stationed with the Air Force.

Then, on June 27th, I was married to Herbert Ritchie.

All the other girls are fine and we had quite a little reunion at Morna's wedding. Monica Sey Robinson was home for a visit at that time, so there were six of the girls at their wedding. It was nice to see them all again.

As ever,

VERNA RITCHIE (JOHNSON),

Toronto, Ont., Red Cross V.A.D.
Canada.

Talking Book Library

Jaunty January

To start 1954, there are four new books in the Library, two home-produced—"Age of Elegance" and "Heaven Knows Mr. Allison"—and two imported from the U.S.A. — "Tombstone," and "Gods, Graves and Scholars." All four make good reading, though the first home-produced and the second import are somewhat specialised.

"Age of Elegance," by Arthur Bryant, reader Franklin Engelmann, covers a period of ten years, 1912-22. Throughout the country the elegant top layer of Society was set off by several layers of wretchedness at the bottom. This social history, though interesting, needs the leaven of the Czar's visit and the fine detailed account of Waterloo given it by the author. A good follow up to Age of Endurance and Years of Victory!

"Heaven Knows Mr. Allison," by Charles Shaw, reader Robert Gladwell, is a gripping wartime story of a U.S. marine and a comely young nun wrecked on a small, Japanese-occupied island. The complication of sex adds to their difficulties and hazards, but their rescue is one of the war's little ironies. A fine yarn and I was sorry when it proved not wholly true.

"Tombstone," by C. B. Kelland, reader Bud Abbott, is naturally a Western, and culminates in a "god-damned" awful gunfight. The heroine, a New England business girl, softens under the influence of outlaws, gamblers, and a successful millinery business, and everyone gets his or her just deserts in Tombstone in the year 1881.

"Gods, Graves and Scholars," by C. W. Ceram, reader Kermit Murdock, is a summary of the major "finds" of archaeologists during the last two hundred years. Italy, Troy, Greece, Crete, Egypt, Arabia and Mexico all figure in a most interesting array of breathless discoveries and, personally, I enjoyed this book more than the other three but beware, it might not appeal to all tastes.

"NELSON."

Birth

DONBAVAND.—To the wife of J. Donbavand, of Oldham, on September 28th, a son—Paul.

Likes and Dislikes

I *like* the *smell* of bacon being cooked over a camp fire on a frosty morning.

I *dislike* the *smell* of street drains during a long drought.

I *like* the *taste* of fried fish and chips.

I *dislike* the *taste* of (not so fresh) steamed fish.

I *like* the *feel* of springy turf beneath my feet when walking across the Downs.

I *dislike* the *feel* of oppressive heat in the City during a heat-wave (let's have one soon!).

I *like* the *sound* of the waves lapping gently on the sea-shore.

I *dislike* the *sound* of pneumatic drills.

S. H. WEBSTER.

★ ★ ★

I *like* the *smell* of new-mown hay and *dislike* the *smell* of smoke from strong, low-grade tobacco.

I *like* the *taste* of ham and eggs and *dislike* the *taste* of seed-cake.

I *like* the *feel* of pussy rubbing her face on my hands and *dislike* the *feel* of unexpectedly putting my bare feet on a cold surface.

I *like* the *sound* of bird song especially at early morn, and I *dislike* the sound of ill-fitting false teeth.

H. A. KNOPP.

★ ★ ★

Re the first paragraph in John Martin's letter, "if you lose your sight your other senses become more acutely developed." How does this apply to a person like myself, with no definite sense of taste, no sense of smell at all, and hearing very much one-sided? Anyway, for what it is worth, here is my list of likes and dislikes, omitting the sense of smell.

I *like* the *taste* of icy cold milk before going to bed.

I *dislike* the *taste* of gritty lettuce.

I *like* the *feel* of my daughter's small hand in mine.

I *dislike* the *feel* of a wet towel.

I *like* the *sound* of carol-singing on a frosty night.

I *dislike* the *sound* of a speeding motor cycle.

(P.S.—The things I like and dislike to taste are really what they feel like in my mouth, not what I can definitely taste.)

(Mrs.) MARGARET STANWAY.

Morecambe.

★ ★ ★

Look here, you critics, while I attempt the lyrical,

For Stewart's sake I'll try to wax satirical;
John Martin writes of joy from things he cannot see,

To coin a phrase, He's got no flies on me.

Leave Milton to his sightless Paradise Lost,
Such thoughts are as cheerful as a two inch frost;
If you want to know what gives me the swoons,
It's a lovely big cloud of petrol fumes.

There are titbits which stir my gastric juices,
And they're not Phil Harben's roasted geese;
When on my birthday I let my palate frolic,
I chew tobacco, betel nut and garlic.

I scorn the man who wails he cannot see the dawn,
The early morning birdsong only makes me yawn,
To revel in the blessings of feel or touch,
Hand me bobs and florins and pound notes and such.

I won't deny our ears provide some solid joy,
Whether pinned back for Beethoven or flapped
for Harry Roy;

Yet here's a sound which fairly makes my kidneys float,

The swish of a nearby satin petticoat.

GEORGE ELLIS.

★ ★ ★

I like to smell in summer eve breeze
The golden chains of laburnum trees,
Or at early morn when dewy wet
The sweet perfume of the violet.

The smell from a boiled bad egg gets me down,
I cut off the top, take one sniff and then frown,
I imagine inside, the thought makes me weak,
A fluffy wee body, with soft yellow beak.

I like the taste of a sausage well fried,
A long skinny bag with pig-meat inside,
One found not guilty by jury, of course,
Of being a bagful of mule or of horse.

I dislike intensely, in fact I could scream,
When given a sandwich spread with salad cream.
I splutter with rage like a man with the gout,
I wonder who's watching? Can I spit it out?

I like to feel, alas now rare,
The crowning beauty of a woman's long hair,
Marred not by scissors at fashion's behest,
But left long to grow as nature knew best.

I dislike the feel of a limp clammy hand,
I'm wishful to say "Come on, grip,
You're just like a cod, dying slow in the sand,
Come, grip hard, let it rip."

—Continued on page 11

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I quite agree with the Rev. D. S. J. Pettitt that we blind men should not use bad language or swearing. This is a very bad habit among those who can see as well, which brings me to his second protest. This, I am afraid, is going to make some of our St. Dunstaners use more bad language.

When I was in my Theological College we had a "sweep" and did a lot of things we should not have done. I think the reverend gentleman is becoming a child and a killjoy. I am afraid that he will not stop any one of us, even if we are C. of E., from contributing our sixpence towards buying a brick for the building of a new Roman Catholic Church.

He suggests we should not buy these "officially" but "unofficially," through the back door, as it were, like a good many of our parsons buy their drinks. Did not Our Lord say "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works." We are buying bricks to build a Church for the generation to come, our children and grandchildren. Again I quote "Inasmuch as ye have done this for little children, ye have done it for Me."

It's no wonder our Churches are emptying while the Roman Church is thriving and full to capacity. We have fought two wars against dictators, and we in England still like to feel that we are free. This is the voice of us all at St. Dunstan's here, so please let us keep up the traditions without being chided like little children. We are men who have lost the best thing in life, so do let us have a little of life's pleasures.

Sincerely yours,

Ovingdean. W. R. EVANS (C. of E.),

DEAR EDITOR,

I feel compelled to reply to the Padre's complaint of the use of expletives. During my stay of one month at Ovingdean last year, when the house was almost full, expletives used within earshot were conspicuous by their absence. That, I say, is remarkable considering that we were trained by officers and non-commissioned officers who used a wide range of these words. Such words are used in unknown numbers in our current literature and on the stage. As a Trooper of Horse, I have an excellent vocabulary, but I only use the

very ordinary words when I meet the edge of a door left open or a chair that cracks my shins.

Regarding sweepstakes connected with a religious denomination, one such denomination has a belief that the end justifies the means. I am C. of E., but going in for sweepstakes has not made me evil of thought, but hypocrisy does.

Yours sincerely,

West Wickham, Kent. S. F. PRIDEAUX.

DEAR EDITOR,

Some months ago you published an offer emanating from the Talking Book Library to have special subject books recorded. Being very interested in hand-weaving, and wanting to make up myself a Braille card index, I thought "This is a solution to my problem," for although my American design book is as easy as walking off a sidewalk to a sighted reader, to get anyone to transcribe the graphs to me—well, it just doesn't seem possible.

In course of time I received a very nice letter from someone connected with the Library. It appeared that whoever had examined the pattern book had said, "O Lord, this looks complicated—no can do." I could have it brailled out for me, but as I knew I could get the book on discs from the U.S.A. I sent along actual sheets of graph, Braille and typing, to the writer. Did I get a reply? I did not.

I don't know if any other St. Dunstaner with a special interest in an old craft has applied, as I did, with hope and then received a negative reply. The fact that many other blind people are becoming more and more interested in the old art of handloom weaving has not as yet percolated to the archives of the Talking Book Library.

Yours etc.,

MAUREEN LEES.

An official of the Talking Book Library says: "We regretted that it was quite impossible to make a Talking Book of the particular publication Mrs. Lees sent us. Consisting as it did of so many diagrams, graphs, etc., it was not possible to have it read aloud. These special recordings for students must, of course, be very limited, and are of an experimental nature. Only one book has so far been recorded. This is on Physiotherapy, and of interest to a wide circle of readers."

Ovingdean Notes

Having welcomed in the New Year in the usual riotous and time-honoured fashion of St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean very soon afterwards said farewell to the holidaymakers, took down the decorations, and prepared to get ready for the new training term, which was to commence on January 7th. From then until the time of writing these Notes, we have received six new St. Dunstaners at the Centre for training, all of whom, we are glad to say, seem to be settling down quickly to life here.

The freakish weather accorded to the rest of the country did not bypass the South Coast, as is so often our good fortune, and for about ten days the building and grounds were a faithful replica of the "snow-scene" model which had been part of our decorations in the Main Hall over Christmas.

Last month we had two accounts in the REVIEW of Ovingdean Christmas, one factual and the other (thank goodness) a flight of fancy! As, however, neither made mention of the decorations devised to transform the main rooms of the Home to provide an atmosphere of Christmas cheer, a brief mention can perhaps be made here now. First, the dining room and the lounge were given a "new look" and then the hurry and bustle seemed infectious! Everywhere one would meet members of the staff carrying rolls of coloured papers and the like and there was much snipping with scissors. The dining room walls were indeed very attractive, thanks to the hard work of Frank Bickerton, who had painted the little animal figures in a style decidedly reminiscent of Walt Disney, to Tom Eales, who had lent a hand with the cutting-out of them, and to the other members of the Dining Room and Orderly Staff who had chosen the grouping and done the fixing. The finished result was a delightful little snow scene of considerable talent and bright and cheerful colour.

Upstairs, on the first floor, the Sick Bay Staff were scurrying back and forth—not with hypodermics or tablets, or even hot-water bottles, but with yards of coloured papers, decorations and Sellotape! At last the job was done there too, and most effectively. Visitors to the Sick Wards were conducted down corridors festooned with gay "make-believe" window-boxes and brightly coloured flowering creepers.

On the top floor we found, to our pleasant surprise, the Canteen too had taken on a new air. Many little ingenious touches had softened the normal austerity appearance of the long, narrow room.

Now they are all gone—both decorations and the holidaymakers. The decorations for at any rate a year, but the holidaymakers? Well, we hear from Welfare that many have already staked a claim for their Summer vacation and others have made enquiries about Bridge and Chess weekends.

That's all from us this month then, except to report on the first of the 1954 Knock-out Shooting Competitions, which has just been completed. There were 23 entrants (both trainees and holiday men), and there was some very fine shooting. D. Stott, although a new trainee this term, was the winner, when he knocked out J. Mahony with a score of 49 plus 3. In the semi-finals he had beaten J. Walker, and J. Mahony had proved too good for L. McCredie, although McCredie was very consistent with his scoring throughout the contest and never scored less than 48 out of a possible 50 each time—so he remains a probable danger in the next contest!

Ovingdean Chapel

Donations from the Chapel Funds have recently been sent to the following:—

£15 to the Westminster Abbey Fund.
£15 to the Tarner Home, Brighton.
£15 to the Brighton Girls' Orphanage.
£15 to St. Matthew's Church Comforts Fund.

★ ★ ★

Commandant and Matron at Ovingdean would like to thank all those St. Dunstaners who so kindly sent them greetings at Christmas. So many of you did so that it is not possible to acknowledge your good wishes personally, but through the columns of the REVIEW they hope to reach you all.

Miss Carlton has told the Editor too that she would like to thank St. Dunstaners for their Christmas greetings, and so also would all members of the Staff at Ovingdean and West House.

Our very good wishes to you all for 1954 and our apology that, owing to lack of space in the January REVIEW, these paragraphs were not able to appear until now.

West House, Brighton

Most St. Dunstaners who come to the Brighton Homes would know our Senior Nursing Sister at West House, Miss E. Guinan, who had made many friends since she joined the Staff in 1947.

Miss Guinan went home to Eire on leave recently, where she died very suddenly on February 10th, at her home. We shall all miss her cheerful personality and her devoted service to our sick St. Dunstaners.

The funeral took place on Friday, February 12th, and a wreath was sent to Eire from Staff and St. Dunstaners at West House and Ovingdean.

Miss Peacock

St. Dunstaners will hear with deep regret of the death of Sister Peacock. This occurred in a nursing home on September 8th, but has only just been brought to the notice of the REVIEW. Matron Avison, from West House, attended the funeral at Bexhill Cemetery.

Miss Peacock had been a V.A.D. with us since 1919, mainly at West House. When the 1939 war came, she went to the Blackpool Home but left us in September, 1941.

Test Results

Typing.—H. Knappe, L. McCredie (Officer).

Preliminary.—E. Jordan, A. Howell, S. Belsham, M. Fulbrook, J. Embleton, Capt. S. Spence, L. McCredie (Officer), J. Nichols.

Advanced.—S. Craig, S. Belsham.

Writing.—Miss D. Phillippo, A. Howell.

Likes and Dislikes—(continued from page 8)

*I dislike the sound of that Ovingdean bell,
That ingot of metal forged in hell,
I'm driven mad at its peals
Calling St. Dunstaners to their meals,*

*That loathsome thing with its noisome clangour,
Puts me right off my mash and my banger.
It rattles my eardrums, addles my brain,
If I had a month there it would drive me insane.*

*So come, Commandant, now do be a good fellow,
Put in a gong that sounds sweet and mellow,
Or maybe a musical box that will play
"Come, nymphs and shepherds, come, come away."*

"GEN."

Other Likes and Dislikes next month.

Day Dream

*I wandered down a quiet lane with wooded slopes
on either hand,*

*The lane turned left and then turned right; it
went uphill and down again.*

*The sky o'erhead was blue and clear, the sun
with brilliant radiance shone,*

*And insects basking in the grass, chirped merrily
to greet its warmth.*

*The bloom of wild flowers 'neath the trees adds
beauty to the sylvan scene,*

*A thrush from top of woodland tree sang "Happy,
happy, happy me."*

*It soon was joined by other birds, their accents
sweetly blending,*

*Until the woods both far and near were filled
with bird-song melody.*

*I passed along to higher ground and there I stood
to look around*

*On wooded slopes and pastures green, which
stretch as far as eye can see,*

*And in the background far away a church spire
stands erect and grey,*

*While soft wind passing through the trees brings
rhythmic music to the ear.*

*I stand enthralled by beauteous scene and wish
I had an artist's skill.*

*I wend my way 'twixt meadows green where
sheep and cows are grazing,*

*Then round a corner down a hill I reach a lovely
valley*

*Where quiet stream flows slowly through a place
of calm serenity.*

*I sit me down to rest awhile and drink the water
cool and clear,*

*I fall asleep and when I wake I sit me still to
meditate.*

*I'd walked some miles along the lanes and had
not met a person,*

*No sound of motor or of plane, no noisy hooting
hooter,*

*The nerves were soothed, the mind refreshed, the
spirit was uplifted.*

*I rise, and walk along the lane with sense of calm
within,*

*Until on turning round a bend I hear
Upon a near highway the rumbling sound of*

traffic.

I am awake.

*And all the while I'm sitting in my own arm-
chair.*

W. C. HILLS.

Wingham, Canterbury.

“ In Memory ”

Private Richard George Reason, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

It is, with deep regret that we record the death of F. R. G. Reason, of Bothenhampton, near Bridport, at the age of fifty-six.

Blinded at Ypres, he came to St. Dunstan's in April, 1918, and trained in mat-making, and he continued with this craft, together with a little poultry-keeping, until the time of his sudden death during the night of February 1st.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Reason in her loss.

Private William Henry Johnson, *2nd South Wales Borderers*

With deep regret we record the death of W. H. Johnson, of London, S.E.17. He was sixty-nine. He came twice to St. Dunstan's—first in 1917 and then in 1940. He had trained in mat-making and basket-making, but he did not follow his trade.

His death took place on January 8th after a short illness.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Private Herbert Maurice Morgan, *Labour Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of H. M. Morgan, of Belam, near Welshpool, at the age of 63. Although he had enlisted in 1915 and was discharged from the Service in 1919 suffering from the effects of mustard gas, he had only been with us since early 1953. His health had rapidly deteriorated during the last few months and he had suffered much pain.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Morgan and her large family.

Lance-Corporal William Horsnell, *1st Essex Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of W. Horsnell, of Somerton, Somerset. He was 73.

He served with the 29th Division in the Dardanelles and it was in action there that he lost his sight. He came to St. Dunstan's in August, 1915, and trained as a poultry-farmer, but later gave up this work to continue with netting. At this he had worked until his death.

At the funeral, which took place at Charlton Adam Church, the coffin was covered with the Union Jack. Among those present at the Church were Lt. Col. W. W. N. Davies, representing the British Legion, and Mr. Hillier, of Toc H.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family, to whom our very sincere sympathy is offered.

Private James H. Rawlinson, *58th Canadians*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. H. Rawlinson, one of our very early St. Dunstaners, who had served with the Canadian Forces in 1915, and was wounded at Vimy Ridge.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1917 and for many years was a shorthand typist in the Government of Canada offices in London, making occasional visits to his home country. His health, however, failed and in 1951 he went to live in South Africa. He made a very happy life for himself there, having many interests, the chief of which was the successful breeding of Alsatian dogs.

Representatives of many Dog Clubs and Societies were present at his funeral, as well as many other friends who mourn his loss.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his housekeeper, Mrs. Hazeldene, who has looked after him for twenty-four years.

Gunner John William Lumb, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

With deep regret we record the death of J. W. Lumb, of Hessele, Yorkshire. He was 73.

Enlisting in 1914, he was discharged the following year through injuries following shell blast, but it was not until 1952 that he came to St. Dunstan's. His health steadily grew worse, unfortunately, and he died on October 18th. (We apologise for the delay in the publication of this notice. It has only just reached the REVIEW.)

Our deep sympathy goes out to his daughter, who had looked after him, and to his son.

The late Mr. Tom McGuire, of Drogheda, left three daughters and two sons. This was not made quite clear in last month's REVIEW. Our deep sympathy goes out to them in their loss.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

DANCE.—To F. T. Dance, of Bishops Stortford, whose wife died in hospital on February 16th after a short illness.

EUSTACE.—To G. Eustace, of Kingston By-Pass, who has lost his mother.

EVANS.—To E. D. Evans, whose wife passed away on February 14th. Our St. Dunstaner is himself ill.

HOLMES.—To P. Holmes, of Ashted, Surrey, whose wife died on January 29th, after a long illness.

TODD.—To J. Todd, of Oxhey, Watford, whose father has recently died.

WILKES.—To T. Wilkes, of Wyunbury, who has lost his brother.

WILLIAMSON.—To C. Williamson, of Norbury, whose mother died on January 27th, after a long and painful illness.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 414—VOLUME XXXVII

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Notable St. Dunstaner Retires

SERGEANT Alan Nichols retired at the end of March on superannuation after a lifetime of soldiering and propaganda work. He suffered multiple injuries and he was practically blinded and lost both his hands when he was a bombing instructor during the First War. After training at St. Dunstan's he worked for the N.I.B. in association with the Carol League and then after a brief interval, for St. Dunstan's for thirty years. A fluent writer and speaker with a good sense of humour, he made light of his grave disability and undaunted by all the blows of fate, led an active, vigorous life lecturing for St. Dunstan's. Many amongst his audiences said that his presentation of the Story of St. Dunstan's and his own cheerful personality were an inspiration to them. He was the first St. Dunstaner so gravely disabled to conquer this handicap and he set an example to those who followed.

Curiously enough he was the only handless St. Dunstaner to survive the First War whereas from the Second War, although casualties generally were halved, there were 13 similar cases. I surmise that this was due to land mines and more shattering explosives as well as, perhaps, to better medical care, the use of sulphur drugs and anti biotics in battle areas.

Mr. Nichols is a well-known figure among the members of Rotary Clubs, Women's Institutes, British Legion and Women's Section branches throughout the country and many will be glad to know that he will continue to undertake occasional engagements for St. Dunstan's as well as to lecture on a voluntary basis in the future.

Mr. Doughty

Another old member of the Staff, Mr. A. W. Doughty, retires at the end of the month. Mr. Doughty joined us in the autumn of 1918 and for sixteen years worked with Mr. A. B. Hall and Mr. Ottaway at Raglan Street in the Department dealing with boots, mats, joinery, and wool-rugs. In 1934, in the reorganisation following the death of Mr. Hegarty, Mr. Doughty took over the duties of Northern Area Welfare Superintendent until his appointment later as Technical Superintendent. In July, 1949, he went to South Audley Street to become Assistant Legacy Officer.

There can be few St. Dunstan's home craftsmen who have not at one time or another had the benefit of Mr. Doughty's wise and kindly counsel. He has taken great pride in the fine job his craftsmen have done and nothing has given him more pleasure than meeting them

again at reunions or on the rarer occasions in recent years when they have visited South Audley Street.

I feel sure that all friends of St. Dunstan's will wish these two members of the staff who have served us for so long good luck and happiness in their retirement.

A "Prayer"

The other day a debate took place in the House of Commons about Physiotherapy. The point at issue was to determine what examinations should qualify persons to be employed in the Health Service as Physiotherapists. The Minister of Health wished to widen the field and I and others urged him not to dilute these highly skilled persons but to employ only persons who have attained such a very high standard such as that which all St. Dunstaners have reached by passing the examinations of the Chartered Society.

The debate in the House occurred on what is called a Prayer, and Mr. Mickie Burns has asked what is a Prayer in this sense. The answer is, briefly, that certain powers given to Ministers by legislation can only be exercised by order which must lay before Parliament. These orders lie on the Table, so to speak, for forty days during which any Member who objects may "pray Her Majesty not to sign the order." Thus the word "Prayer" is a technical term for an objection raised to such an order by a Member.

IAN FRASER.

News from Overseas

Our old friends, H. ("Charlie") Gover, and Mrs. Gover, are now home from their visit to Australia and New Zealand. Donald McPhee, "Chalky" White and Jim May are among the St. Dunstaners they have met out there, writes Charlie. His visit has also inspired a letter to H.Q. from Tom Corboy, of Victoria, from whom we have not heard for some years, and who tells us that as well as meeting Charlie, he recently had a pleasant reunion with Jerry Jerome.

Another pleasant result of the Gover's visit has been a meeting with that very good friend of St. Dunstan's, Miss Morrah, and the nieces who came to London a few years ago. Pouring rain, a high wind, and one of the worst storms in years did not damp the proceedings, for Charlie had brought his cards and they settled happily to bridge.

Through Maureen Lees we hear that Mary Scorar is still in Winnipeg and often thinks of her St. Dunstan's friends. Those who knew her will recall her friendly smile and how she coped with the cars up the slopes of Longmynd.

Another old friend, Perky Perkins, with the help of a retired business man, has got a Club going for the blind in the Kelowna Valley, where he lives. He has also made a very fine contribution to the fight against polio in Canada. As Chairman of a fund, by much hard work he has raised 1,800 dollars and has presented an iron lung to a Canadian clinic. Good work, Perky!

Derby Sweepstake

The draw for the Derby Sweepstake (which closes on **May 21st**) will be made at the London Club on the evening of Friday, May 28th. All those drawing a horse will be notified by letter. If you have not already applied for your tickets, please do so at once. Tickets are 2s. 6d. each and only St. Dunstaners may hold them.

Camp

Royal Naval Barracks, Lee-on-Solent, Hants. Friday, August 6th to 14th. Fares over £1 refunded. Camp fee: £1 5s. 6d.

Closing date for entries, May 6th. Beds are strictly limited. Mrs. Spurway, The Vicarage, Holmwood, Dorking.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," April, 1924:—

"The ninth anniversary! To most of those present at the Old Bungalow on the 4th April (the 9th Anniversary Dance), it must have seemed almost impossible that nine years have passed since St. Dunstan's first opened the doors of hospitality; and yet so much has happened to us all since that day in February, 1915 when the little handful of war-blinded men entered into possession of the new home of hope. There is always a leaven of sadness in anniversaries of any event. One recalls the old friends who are gone, the happy times that those past years saw, and in the forefront of every St. Dunstaner's memory on such occasions is always the voice and personality of our great Chief. . ."

London Club Notes

Indoor Section.—The Indoor Section had two matches in March. The first, at Headquarters, was against a team from the Enfield Working Men's Club. This was a very enjoyable meeting; we had a good match, the results being:

The darts team won two games to nil.

Two pairs at dominoes both won their matches for us.

A cribbage pair, Tiny Fleming and myself, beat their pair by three games to nil.

A very successful start to the season. We have been asked to send a team to Enfield for a return. More of this anon.

On March 29th we travelled to Croydon for a match with the Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind. This again was a grand evening but, sad to say, the team was off form. Results:

We lost at darts by two games to nil.

Of two dominoes pairs, one won for us, the other lost.

The cribbage pair won their match.

A mixed result but all the same, a very nice, sociable evening and our thanks go to the Croydon folk for such a good time.

Now boys, roll along to the Club. More matches are being arranged so give us your support.

CHAS. J. WALKER.

Bridge Notes.—The first bridge drive of the year took place at H.Q. on Saturday, 3rd March, when twenty-four members of the Bridge Club, with their partners enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon. The Master of Ceremonies on this occasion was Dr. C. Stokes.

We were all very pleased to welcome Sir Neville and Lady Pearson, who kindly presented the prizes to the following winning pairs. 1st, B. Ingrey and Mr. Stokes; 2nd, W. Shakespear and Mr. Watson; 3rd, L. Douglas and Mr. Elmes; nearest to parity, T. Roden and Miss Winter.

On behalf of the Bridge Club I wish to express our gratitude to Miss Hensley, who very kindly provided the prizes and the refreshments.

On Saturday, March 10th our team lost the match against our old friends J. Lyons.

On Friday, March 19th, Tiny Fleming's team in the L.B.H. League, drew their last match of the season. Final result was Won 2; Drawn 2; Lost 6.

W. BISHOP.

Outdoor Section.—Hills and dales were the order of the day for the 15 mile race held at South Croydon again this year. And so it was that eight St. Dunstaners set off for a gruelling race through the Surrey and Kent countryside. One hundred yards downhill at the start, right turn and face $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 miles of climb to the top of Gravel Hill. A sharp drop down and steadily on through Addiscombe and Hayes, then a really tough climb up Coney Hill and up and over Keston Common, and down to the half way mark. Tired from climbing hills we then turned around for the homeward stretch. Up hill at first and then down the hills and back to Gravel Hill, which usually proves too much for better men than we. Back down the long hill into Croydon and left turn to the finish.

Here it was that a tired Billy Miller finished first, followed five minutes later by Charles Williamson, and Archie Brown, two minutes later, in third place.

These were the only three who finished inside the standard time of 2 hrs. 35 mins. Pat Cryan was fourth but just missed gaining a time standard medal.

The usual handicap prizes were won by Billy Miller, C. Williamson and C. Stafford. 1, 2 and 3 scratch medals were also presented to the first three to finish.

The race was started and prizes presented by the president of the Surrey Walking Club, Mr. Matthews.

Charles Williamson retains the Dr. Chittenden Bridges trophy.

15 Mile Sealed Handicap Walk

For the Dr. Chittenden Bridges Trophy

Held on Saturday, 27th March, 1954

From the Stag and Hounds, South Croydon.

Order of Finish	Time	H'cp All.	H'cp Time	Pos. in H'cp
1. W. Miller	2-26-40	Scr.	2-26-40	1
2. C. Williamson	2-31-43	4-00	2-27-43	2
3. A. Brown	2-34-01	2-30	2-31-31	5
4. P. Cryan	2-37-57	5-15	2-32-42	6
5. S. Tutton	2-46-56	17-30	2-29-26	4
6. C. Stafford	2-48-55	20-30	2-28-25	3
7. L. Dennis	2-56-29	23-00	2-33-20	7
8. J. Lynch	3-8-52	31-30	2-37-22	8

Winner of the Dr. Chittenden Bridges Trophy.—C. Williamson.

Winners of Time Standard Medals (2 hrs. 35mins.).—W. Miller, C. Williamson, A. Brown.

Presentation to Miss Pease

At the London Club on Tuesday evening, March 30th, members gathered to witness the presentation to Miss Hester Pease upon her retirement.

Mr. Askew, opening the proceedings, said that the gifts which Miss Pease had chosen were an oak chest and a travelling clock, and these were the gifts of St. Dunstaners in all parts of the country. The London Club was, one might say, the centre of St. Dunstan's activities and therefore he would call upon its president, Mr. Percy Ashton, to make the presentation on behalf of St. Dunstaners everywhere.

Percy spoke of Miss Pease's long association with St. Dunstan's, first as a V.A.D. at West House, later as Matron of Tembani, in South Africa, and then as a Welfare Visitor. She had become a much-beloved friend to St. Dunstaners both in this country and in South Africa and they would all wish her many happy years of retirement. He then handed to Miss Pease the travelling clock and a small silver plate to be attached to the oak chest and which was inscribed,

Presented to Miss Hester Pease from her St. Dunstan's friends, 1927-1953.

Miss Pease, replying, spoke of her great affection for St. Dunstan's and her regret that her work had now come to an end. She thanked all St. Dunstaners for their farewell gift and for their friendship which it was her privilege to have.

In a very well chosen little speech, seconding Percy Ashton's remarks, Mr. Bob Giffard brought the little ceremony to an end.

Miss Pease writes:—

"I want through the REVIEW to thank once again all my St. Dunstan's friends who have given me such lovely gifts. The fine oak chest which bears an inscription on a silver plate and the travelling clock with my initials on the leather case will be amongst my most treasured possessions.

"I want also to thank those who have sent me personal gifts and letters.

"It will be a constant joy to me to possess these tokens of friendship and affection which I deeply value."

HESTER K. L. PEASE.

Grandfathers

A. J. Mitchell, of Hove; F. A. Rhodes, of Ovingdean.

Reunions

As we go to press, the first two Reunions of 1954 have taken place.

On Saturday, March 20th, at the Lion Hotel, Guildford, Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., our President, welcomed St. Dunstaners from all parts of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Surrey, Hampshire and Middlesex. Sir Neville was accompanied by Lady Pearson and also among those present was Lady Onslow.

Sir Ian Fraser, with Lady Fraser, attended the Luton Reunion which was held at the George Hotel on Wednesday, March 31st.

Scooping the Pool

Those of us who were present at the "Lion Hotel," Guildford, on the 20th March, will have very pleasant memories of that reunion, but the following was a shade less amusing to the principal character. He was, I might add, a sergeant, which may comfort some and perhaps upset others.

This gentleman arrived one evening at the aforementioned hotel, and proclaimed to all and sundry that he had "won the pools." Everyone was delighted. They clapped him on the shoulder, said he was just the fellow who should win . . . and drank his beer.

He stood quite a number of rounds to friends and strangers, and everyone was quite pleased to join him. Then, informing the landlord that he would return with his allotted share to make good the damage to the cellars, he departed.

Some while later a rather crestfallen individual arrived to pay his score. The bill presented was settled, or so one must imagine. The crestfallen expression? Well, perhaps the teams hadn't run so well, and he had only had a second or third dividend. Gross winnings—before paying—approximately eight shillings. There's a moral somewhere!

West Wickham.

W. J. OLIVER.

Canasta

The rules of Canasta will shortly be available in Braille and Mr. Jones, Men's Supplies, will be glad to hear from any St. Dunstaner who would be interested to have them.

Packs of Braille playing cards are now designed so that Canasta can be played with two packs.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I should be interested to know how the Rev. Canon W. G. Speight can prove that the Catholic Church (by Christ established) has ever accepted the doctrine of "The End justifies the Means," or that there is any wrong in the enjoyment of the Sweepstakes or Pools. It is lamentable that he should use the REVIEW to introduce religious discord and controversy, but should he wish to be enlightened, I would suggest that he has a friendly discussion with any Catholic priest.

Yours sincerely,

Bournemouth. ARTHUR T. BROOKS.

DEAR EDITOR,

As an old man with long experience of St. Dunstan's I would like to reply to the most interesting letter of Mr. Speight in the March REVIEW.

Remembering some 38 years ago, the early days when we forgathered at West House for a spell of rest, convalescence or holiday, it occurs to me that childish ragging was not unknown, and I shall always remember how a small bunch of fellows became known as "the Spat Brigade," and quite a number of us are still around. For the benefit of the uninitiated I would point out that spats were worn, way back in the past, to smarten up the appearance of the wearer, and believe it or not, we rather enjoyed the jokes we caused. The word "childish" used by Mr. Speight in his letter, in connection with the incident which affected him personally, is no doubt just the right word; but, strange as it may seem, we in those days did not take childish remarks seriously; after all, we were all somewhat childish, but happily so.

With more than 36 years' experience as a propagandist, it has been my job to raise funds for St. Dunstan's. Sweepstakes, boxing and golf tournaments, raffles, darts competitions, billiards and snooker tournaments, and many other methods of raising money have been employed. Churches, chapels, pubs and clubs, yes even Dartmoor and Wormwood Scrubs, have been exploited (as you might call it) by Your Humble Servant.

So far as I am concerned, I do not think it is wise to bring religion or politics into discussion in the REVIEW—or, for that matter, in the lounge before breakfast.

My sympathies are with Mr. Speight, and I would like to wish him a whole lot of luck in his career.

Yours sincerely,

Portslade.

ALAN NICHOLS.

DEAR EDITOR,

I should like to thank Canon Speight and Padre Pettit for their letters in recent issues of the REVIEW, encouraging St. Dunstaners to aim at a high standard of Christian conduct which would not only bring increased happiness to us individually, but greatly increase the prestige already held by the public for St. Dunstan's.

I missed reading the other letters on the subject, but would suggest that if any further letter are written they should drop the stock of criticisms of the Church and concentrate on the one question that matters, namely, "What think ye of Christ." "Whose son is He?" Those of us who believe Him to be the Son of God, and have received Him into our lives as Saviour and Friend, possess a peace of heart and mind which is not to be found anywhere else.

I am sure there are St. Dunstaners who share this experience and others who would like to. I wonder if the idea of a Fellowship would appeal for the purpose of mutual encouragement and the solving of difficulties of a spiritual nature, either by correspondence or even some space in the REVIEW.

Yours sincerely,

Reading.

A. A. H. BROWN.

DEAR EDITOR,

May I appeal to you and your readers not to publish or write any more letters attacking religion, because I think we have reached the limit when two men in Holy Orders begin to attack another denomination. Surely if a man wants to buy two thirds of a brick in aid of the Roman Catholic chapel, with the hopes of winning one third, that is his affair. I may point out that I am not a Roman Catholic; I am what most people would call a shaky Presbyterian—very shaky—but I think religion is a subject that is best left out of the REVIEW.

What a terrible thing it would be if we took all the so-called good advice we get at St. Dunstan's. First the parsons say, "You must not gamble or swear." Nick says, "Lay off the drink"—he should know! Then the doctor says, "Not too

much bread, no potatoes, no friends, no fats," and now the Chancellor says, "No more on pensions." Is life worth living?

Yours sincerely,

Ilford. JOCK MACFARLANE, B.E.M.

[*This correspondence is now closed.*—ED.]

DEAR EDITOR,

We St. Dunstaners have long respected Sir Ian Fraser for his vigour and integrity in upholding the cause of war pensioners in his position of President of the British Legion. To us, therefore, it may not have been surprising to read the report of his speech in last month's REVIEW, in which he castigated the present Government and their predecessors for their neglect of war pensions. How refreshing and what an example to other politicians who wait for a lead from their party executive before stating their views on a particular subject. I am sure that most war pensioners would like to congratulate Sir Ian on his efforts.

I hope the British Legion do not make a yard-stick of the conditions between the two wars for in 1918 the basic pension was £2 per week and in 1943, 37s. 6d. per week and between that time was, I believe, even lower. Apart from that there were many despicable injustices that were not righted until 1946.

Yours sincerely,

Addiscombe. EDGAR R. ETTRIDGE.

DEAR EDITOR,

Do you think the following is a matter which should be put in the hands of the police?

Recently, I forgathered at Altrincham with some of my ex-business colleagues, after which some of us repaired to the Club, which possessed a bar.

Now, Clubs being what they are, this one had never heard of closing time, and so it followed that we eleven pursued our convivial way until well into the night. At length it occurred to someone that it was time to make a move towards home, and suggested that we should see Good Old Mac to the train. The station was about 50 yards from where we were then, and it was unthinkable that Good old Mac should be allowed to undertake take a journey alone. A convoy was therefore formed, and the station reached without mishap, and without losing a man.

Altrincham station is an open one, that is, you barge right on to the platform

without any flapdoodle about platform tickets, and so all eleven of us were present and correct when the train steamed in. There was a great deal of bustle and noise as we went about the task of finding a seat for Good Old Mac, and just as the guard was about to blow his whistle, it dawned on us that there had been some bad staff work somewhere, as there were ten of us in the train, looking out at Good Old Mac, who was sitting on a truck on the platform, waving us off. Of course, we all piled out again, much to the annoyance of the guard, who failed to realise the importance of the occasion. We tried to hustle Good Old Mac into the train, amid much heckling from the station officials, and Good Old Mac protested that he wanted a compartment with a girl in it. We did our best to oblige him, but our efforts were cut short by the guard, who bundled Good Old Mac into a seat and waved the train away.

After the hurly burly of the send-off, our departure from the station was the model of respectability and decorum. Strangely enough, each of us had the feeling that all was not well, but sad to say, we were in no fit state to figure out just what, was amiss.

In the morning, ten assorted hangovers in ten fat heads did nothing to bring clarity to the brains of their owners, and it was not until the evening that we were able to pinpoint what was wrong. You see, Good Old Mac hadn't been going anywhere. He was staying right there in Altrincham.

The railway line ends in Liverpool, and presumably the trains stop there. At least, I have never heard of them carrying on and piling up in the Mersey. Is Good Old Mac in some dismal, dusty storeroom in Liverpool, waiting to be claimed, or is he shuttling back and forth in the train between Liverpool and Altrincham? We haven't heard, so we don't know, but would you get on to the police about it if you were me?

Yours apprehensively,

Manchester.

TOMMY TONGE.

Placement

K. W. Cooper, of Thornton Heath, in the Hardening Section of Messrs. Louis Newmark, Prefect Works, East Croydon.

The Budget and War Pensions

Speaking about war pensions in the Budget Debate Sir Ian Fraser said:

"When the Budget was opened, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer did not find it possible to deal with this matter, it naturally caused considerable disappointment among ex-Service men and my friends in the British Legion, though we were pleased when the Chancellor, in his broadcast that night, said that he would not forget them. I understand the Government's difficulty in raising old-age pensions, and all the civil benefits which are, naturally, considered with them, before they have had a full enquiry into the state of the funds, the report of the Government actuary, and all the other facts which it is necessary to have in such a complex and expensive matter. A delay of a few months, although not agreeable to the old people or to their many friends, among whom I count myself, is, nevertheless, understandable.

But all the facts relating to the war pensioners are known and, to me and my friends, there did not seem to be the same reason for delaying a decision in their case. Moreover, it is our view—and I am glad to feel that it now has support in all parts of the House—that their situation is on a slightly different footing. I shall not recapitulate the many reasons which we have given to the claim of disabled ex-Servicemen in respect of their war pensions, and to the widows of the fallen; I shall come to the question which I want to ask.

War pensions are governed by Royal Warrants, which can be brought to the House at any time. They need not necessarily be referred to in the Budget, or await the sanction of the Finance Bill. If, therefore, it so happened that an Election were coming in the Autumn—and I do not say whether that is a good or bad thing—might we expect and hope that this promise, so far as it goes, would be kept before the Election took place, notwithstanding that the much wider, more costly and more difficult subject of old-age pensions might have to wait until the review to which I have referred has been carried out?

I still feel that priority should be given to this matter on its merits, and it would be very disappointing if the Government, in the event of an Election in the Autumn, were to say that they could not deal with the claim of the ex-Servicemen until they had dealt with all the other claims."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer replying, said:

"I can give no undertaking to-day either to old-age pensioners or to ex-Servicemen, in reply to my hon. friend, the Member for Morecambe and Lonsdale (Sir Ian Fraser) who appealed to me, because to give any undertaking would not be honourable. I can only say that the position of the old-age pensioners is clearly a first priority for this or any other Government.

But this is a year in which we are going most thoroughly into their problems. We are not only making the five-yearly examination of the Fund, the condition of which ought to afford all of us a good deal of anxious consideration and thought, but I would also remind hon. Members that, from being about one to nine of the working population in 1931, the old will be about one to five of the working population in 1964 and one to four in 1979. When we do take our decisions, therefore, let us take them with all the gravity that that means for the younger and working population. Let us also take them in humanity, realising what it means for the old people. Let us not dismiss the possibility that it may mean an increase in contributions as a whole. It would be deluding the working population if, in this campaign, which is being conducted with some warmth—perhaps quite naturally because of the humanity of the subject—we were to forget the obligation which must fall on others if the old are to be helped."

Other News

Colin Beaumont Edmonds, M.C., has been chosen as a Conservative candidate at Sutton Coldfield, and will contest the Maney Ward at the local Council elections.

★ ★ ★

Robert Collins, of Liverpool, now lives with his brother George, and George married Miss Patricia Cullen on the 7th March.

★ ★ ★

R. E. Naman has left for the South of England after ten years' service as telephonist at Salford Employment Exchange. There was a report in "Salford City Reporter."

★ ★ ★

H. F. Goodley, of Diss, Norfolk, has won first prize for hyacinths at his local Show for the fourth year running, and to add to his laurels he has been crowned King of Dominoes at Diss Blind Social Club.

On the Air

Reprinted from St. Dunstan's Review (South Africa):—

I suppose that you have all, at some time or other, in tuning over your Radio, come across the Radio Amateur—commonly called "Hams."

I used to listen to them with a certain amount of interest, until one day I met an old friend of mine who happened to be a Ham. Thereafter things began to happen.

Another Ham started building a small transmitter for me. In the meantime I applied for my transmitting licence, which took some time before being granted. My new friend completed my transmitter before my licence was granted and I still had no call sign. However, the happy day at last arrived, the licence was granted and I became Z S 6 Z K, and I was "on" the air.

I tuned over the band and heard a station calling C Q — Q code for calling any station. I gave him a call and, to my surprise, he came back to my call, the first time Z S 6 Z K was heard on the air. I was so taken aback, that, for a few minutes I could not think of anything to say. However, I soon recovered my breath, and carried off the QSO (conversation) successfully and was duly launched on the air.

That was three years ago and I have since had many contacts with brother Hams all over the world, affording me many hours of perfect enjoyment. I switch on the radio and there are dozens of fellow Hams all ready to talk to me; some are already old friends, others ready to become friends. I have learned more about the geography and customs of other countries than in all my school years. Who of you, for instance, know that there is a thriving Scottish Community on the extreme Southern tip of Patagonia and that they raise the finest wool sheep there, according to my friend L U 8 X E?

A word to O.M. Proctor, who, Sir Ian Fraser told me, was a St. Dunstaner on the air in England—I am looking out for you O.M. on 10 and 20 metres. I have spoken to several of the G. boys about you,—they all know about you, but so far I have not contacted any Hams in the Brighton vicinity, where I believe you are.

Good luck to you all.

Z S 6 Z K,

W. MARAIS.

Talking Book Library

Mammoth March

A round dozen of releases, eight home-produced and four imported, are summarised below in that order. "A Gentleman of France," by Stanley S. Weyman, reader Franklin Engelmann, is a cloak and dagger, Catholic *v.* Huguenot story, full of intrigue and romance.

"Old St. Paul's," by W. Harrison Ainsworth, reader Arthur Bush, is a yarn of profligacy, plague and fire overcome partially by commonsense, courage and virtue. Touches of comedy relieve its oddly realistic atmosphere.

"The Paths of Glory," by Kenneth Fenwick, reader Alvar Lidell, traces the life of James Wolfe to his heroic end at Quebec. If this is true, Marlborough and Wellington could teach him nothing.

"The Heart of Paris," by Denise Robins, reader Jean Metcalfe, is a bang up-to-date romance of a Parisian dress designer with innocence, jealousy and unscrupulousness as its main ingredients.

"Garibaldi and the Thousand," by G. M. Trevelyan, reader Robin Holmes, details the birth pangs of modern Italy and the triumph of the House of Savoy, which unofficially backed the hero in his most uncertain enterprise.

"Harvest Comedy," by Frank Swinerton, reader Stephen Jack, concerns the inter-tangled lives of three everyday men. Their ups and downs, comic, tragic, good and bad, make entertaining reading.

"Lucy Carmichael," by Margaret Kennedy, reader Robert Gladwell, is too humdrum to hold the interest mainly because the beginning seems to be the climax from which the story slowly peters out. Weep once more, my ladies! (Apologies to the song-writers).

"Quentin Durward," by Sir Walter Scott, reader J. de Manio, tells of a Scottish Squire in the service of Louis XI. Quentin all virtuous chivalry, is unaware of his master's vicious chicanery, but by sheer luck secures his fortune after hair-breadth escapes.

"Adventure in Two Worlds," by A. J. Cronin, reader Noel Leslie, seems to be the autobiography of the author but I fail to see how a man can fling away his hard won healing skill in favour of scribbling best-sellers.

"Murder on the Frontier," by Ernest Haycox, reader Milton Metz, is a collection of six or seven short "Westerns." Two concern the U.S. Army and Indians, the rest, cattlemen, homesteaders and sheriffs.

"Lieutenant Hornblower," by C. S. Forester, reader Burt Blackwall, follows the Hornblower pattern for a spell in the West Indian station and is, I think, the most gripping of the series.

"Trial by Terror," by Paul Gallico, reader William Gladden, is an up-to-date version of justice behind the Iron Curtain, or purports to be so. American journalists in Paris, made over-curious by righteous indignation, find out the system of extracting confessions used by the Communists. Clever or too clever?

NELSON.

"A Gentleman of France," *Cat. No. 871.*
Books reviewed this month:—

"Old St. Pauls," *Cat. No. 873.*

"The Paths of Glory," *Cat. No. 874.*

"The Heart of Paris," *Cat. No. 875.*

"Garibaldi and the Thousand," *Cat. No. 882 (preceeds Cat. No. 659).*

"Harvest Comedy," *Cat. No. 879.*

"Lucy Carmichael," *Cat. No. 877.*

"Quentin Durward," *Cat. No. 876.*

"Adventures in Two Worlds," *Cat. No. 869.*

"Murder on the Frontier," *Cat. No. 862.*

"Lieutenant Hornblower," *Cat. No. 870.*

"Trial by Terror," *Cat. No. 872.*

Old Contemptibles

A St. Dunstaner has recently reminded us that it will soon be the 40th anniversary of the outbreak of the 1914-1918 war and as an Old Contemptible himself he is anxious to learn how many other St. Dunstaners there are who can claim this distinction.

I should be very pleased, therefore, to hear from any St. Dunstaners who were members of the "Contemptible Little Army."

C. D. WILLS,

Welfare Superintendent.

The Distinction

One day a few months ago my son Raymond, age five, was going to school with the wife and another little girl called Margaret, age seven. After walking a short distance in silence, Margaret turned to Raymond and asked, "Is your Daddy blind?" Whereupon Raymond answered with a note of scorn in his voice, "No, he can't see."

G. WATERWORTH.

Shattered Hopes

The yarn I am going to tell you is a true one; I know, because it actually happened to Taffy Morgan and me when we were kids some years ago in the third form at Hayfield College, in the Midlands. We are still at Hayfield, but at the time the Old Man said we were very lucky not to be kicked out. At least, he said we were extremely fortunate not to be expelled, adding that it was almost a case of sherry sack, which we later understood to be a vile pun. However, we were never very fond of school and we think it was our parents that were really fortunate. By the way, my name is Postlethwaite, and as I don't say much in the usual way, my nickname is Silent Jimmy—or Jim for short.

It all began with that ten shilling note that Taffy received from his Aunt Betsy for winning the Junior Divinity prizes, his aunt being fortunately religious, Dawkins had been a hot favourite for the Junior Divvers, and ought to have won it. The trouble was that bully Armstrong backed Dawks hot and strong, and then threatened to beat him up if he didn't bring it off. This naturally upset young Dawkins, being only a delicate little swot; he was all hot and bothered during the paper, with the result that he got Elijah and Elisha hopelessly mixed up and thought Jezebel was a man. Nobody else in the form was any good at scripture. Taff wrote least and made the fewest mistakes; so he won the prize and Dawks took a bashing.

News soon goes round in a school, especially through the master's common room, and when Alphonse, the French master, heard of Taffy's windfall, he said it was "un embarras de richesse," which I took to mean a lot of money, as indeed it was, for Taffy. His pater had a good job, but always kept Taff short (one shilling weekly), saying that was the best way to teach youngsters the value of money. Taff said you couldn't be expected to learn that without a little more practice in handling it, and I agreed.

Taffy lost a good deal of sleep wondering what to do with his aunt's note, and a lot of fellows rolled up with suggestions. Some were willing to sell useful articles they had grown tired of; others said the money would buy enough grub to make a good "hog" for the study, but Taff said that would upset their stomachs and the

matron. Moses, who is a Jew, of course, and very good at arithmetic, did some rapid calculations and advised Taff to start a money-lending business in the school, assuring him that many chaps would be glad to pay 1s. 1d. next week for the loan of 1s. this; he said this was a reasonable rate of interest, amounting to 433 per cent. per annum, neglecting bad debts, which Taff said he couldn't afford to do. Dawkins, who was practising goodness and hoping to be a parson, said the money ought to be given to the poor and needy, adding a lot about moths and rust and treasure in heaven.

None of these ideas appealed to Taff, and he began to think about cigarettes, saying that lollypops and such like only rot your teeth, and in any case he was too old for them; I agreed, being nearly twelve too. Bully Armstrong said this was a good notion, and producing a swell case he gave us one each of a popular brand, which he said were must the right sort of thing to start on. So we adjourned to the boot room to smoke them. Taff soon turned white about the gills, and I detested the grin on Bully's ugly face; he said the plum duff at dinner couldn't have agreed with us. When I finally recovered we slunk back to the study, where Taff said he was tired of all this beastly suspense and the responsibility of carrying so much money about with him. Grabbing the dictionary he opened it at random, glancing down its columns for the first article of food or drink that met his eye. Passing "sherbet" with a shudder, he alighted on "sherry," and stayed there. He said he had often heard his mother call it a heavenly drink; so it should be the right sort of thing to spend cash on that had come from winning a divinity prize.

It wasn't easy to arrange, but we managed to get a half-bottle through a secret agent by telling him to keep the change, which he did. Taff said I was to share it, as he knew I would go halves with him whenever anybody sent me ten shillings. I readily promised, especially as I never expected to receive such a colossal sum.

The rest is soon told. We were making for the main door at the time of the compulsory walk with the idea of drinking the stuff in Dog Rose Lane, when Tapeworm, the physics master, stopped Taff and asked him what the bulge was under his waistcoat. Taff looked as innocent as he could, said

it was nothing, and tried to sidle past; but Tapeworm plucked at his second button and down fell the bottle on the stone floor of the corridor. Of course, it smashed, and that was the end of Taff's ten shillings. He had always said he would have no peace of mind until he had spent it; but now it was gone it was still a bother. We were both on the carpet before the Old Man that evening, but that is another story and a painful one too. The queer thing about it all is that we were doing "Richard the Second" that term, and Brid, the English master found it all in the play—in different parts, of course. I noted down the passages on the fly-leaf of my copy as a memento, and a warning to my grandchildren:

York: What seal is that, that hangs without thy bosom?

Aumerle: My lord, 'tis nothing.

York: No matter, then, who see it; I will be satisfied.

Aum.: I do beseech your grace to pardon me:

It is a matter of small consequence,

Which for some reasons I would not have seen.

York: Which for some reasons, Sir, I mean to see.

Aum.: I do beseech you, pardon me; I may not show it.

York: I will be satisfied: let me see it, I say.

(*He plucks it out of his bosom*) Act 5, Sc.2.

Richard: There it is, crack'd in a hundred shivers (Act 4, Sc. 1).

Duchess: And all the precious liquor spilt (Act 1, Sc. 2).

Bird always said there was something in Shakespeare to suit all occasions. It seems he knew about Tapeworm and Taff and me.

P. S. SUMNER.

Birmingham Sports

Sunday, May 16th, at Salford Park,
Birmingham

Events:—

70 yards Running.

Throwing the Cricket Ball.

Putting the Weight.

Standing Long Jump.

1 mile Walk.

Will any competitors wishing to be met please get in touch with Mr. Cooling, 179 Northfield Road, King's Norton, Birmingham.

Golden Wedding

Sincere congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. H. Colley, of Ventnor, Isle of Wight, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on March 11th, and to Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Jordan, of Luston, near Leominster, whose anniversary was on April 5th.

Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. A. Collins, of Worthing, who were married 40 years ago on April 14th. Congratulations.

Young St. Dunstaners

Twenty-one-year-old Audrey Muir, Whitely Bay, for three years a secretary at the Bank of America, leaves England shortly to take up a post at a branch in San Francisco.

★ ★ ★

The son of S. A. Chambers, of Birmingham, has passed his final examinations to qualify as a dentist and is now L.D.S., R.D.C. (Eng.).

Marriages

On April 6th, Margaret Halsall, Southport, to R. T. F. Yates.

On February 27th, Irene Wood, Congleton, to W. E. Carter.

★ ★ ★

C. F. Thompson, of Hertford, writes:—

"Although I have no wish to start a competition in the production of grandchildren, nor do I imagine that our quota of ten is a record, perhaps some of our friends at St. Dunstan's might be interested to learn that four of these are in Venezuela and two in Borneo. Two are Venezuelans and one Dutch, the last born in Borneo."

"In Memory"—continued

Private Leonard Trelvelion, *Pioneer Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of L. Trelvelion, of Eastbourne. He was 39 and came to us in June, 1946 and was trained as a shopkeeper. Two years later, however, his health began to fail and he was forced to give this up. He was admitted to West House and he died there on March 31st.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and six children, the youngest of whom is only four.

Private William Sankey, *6th South Wales Borderers*

With deep regret we record the death of W. Sankey, formerly of Aberystwyth, but since 1952 a very popular resident at West House.

Enlisting in 1915, he was discharged in 1918 having lost both eyes as the result of enemy action. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1920 and trained in boot-repairing and mat-making.

In 1948 he became a permanent resident at West House but two years ago his health began to deteriorate and he died there on March 29th.

The funeral took place at Brighton Cemetery; many relatives, to whom our deep sympathy is extended, were present, as also were many St. Dunstaner friends and members of the staff of West House.

Sergeant Francis Alexander Graham, *Royal Army Service Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of F. A. Graham, of Aberdare, at the age of 77.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1949, although he had practically lost the sight of both eyes during the 1914-1918 war. His favourite hobby was gardening. Three years ago he went to live with his daughter, Dr. D. Graham, Headmistress of Aberdare Girls' Grammar School, but his health has rapidly failed and he died on March 14th. By his wish he was buried at Liskard Cemetery, Birkenhead.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Dr. Graham.

Births

ALLEN.—On April 5th, to the wife of W. Allen, of Aldershot, a son.

BRADLEY.—On October 16th, 1953, to the wife of A. G. Bradley, of Harrow, twin sons—David George and Philip William.

COOPER.—On April 1st, to the wife of K. Cooper, of Thornton Heath, a daughter—Pamela Ann.

EAGLE.—On February 5th, to the wife of C. E. Eagle, of Moorabbin, Australia, a son—Andrew Martin.

REID.—On April 4th, to Irene, wife of F. Reid, of Slough, a son—Barry Kelvin.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:

DELANEY.—To M. Delaney, of Maidenhead, whose father died in Dublin on April 14th.

FLEETWOOD.—To C. F. Fleetwood, of Brighton, whose wife died on March 28th. She had been ill for some time but it was hoped that she was getting on well.

HALSALL.—To J. Halsall, of Southport, whose father died on April 3rd, in his eighty-second year.

QUIGLEY.—To B. Quigley, of Potto, who has recently lost his father.

THOMAS.—To W. Thomas, of Wakefield, who has lost his only brother.

WALDEN.—To E. Walden, of Withean, Brighton, whose wife died in hospital on March 22nd.

“ In Memory ”

Private Percy Foyle, *Royal Marine Artillery*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of P. Foyle, of Bournemouth. He was nearly 71.

Discharged from the Service in November, 1917, he was admitted to St. Dunstan's in January of the following year and he trained as a poultry-farmer. Eventually, however, he took up netting.

He died on February 6th; he had been ill for some time. Cremation took place at Bournemouth on February 10th.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his brother.

Private George Henry Gilpin, *Somerset Light Infantry*

We record with deep regret the death of G. H. Gilpin, of Thorverton, Devon, which occurred suddenly on March 24th. He was 73.

When he came to St. Dunstan's in November, 1922, he trained as a boot repairer, and he continued with this work until a year or so ago. His health had been failing for some time before his death.

He leaves a widow and grown up family to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Private William Clarence Millington, *1st Battrn. Royal Scots Fusiliers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. C. Millington, of Blackpool, at the age of 59.

He enlisted in 1916 and was discharged in 1919, having lost the sight of one eye as a result of mustard gas. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1952, the sight of both his eyes being completely lost; his health, too, had been seriously affected.

He was keenly interested in gardening and this was his great hobby.

His health became much worse in the summer of 1953 and he died on March 3rd.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow.

A/Corporal John William Simpson, *1st West Yorkshire Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of J. W. Simpson, of Leeds. He was 69.

Enlisting in June, 1916, he was discharged from the Army in March, 1918, having lost his sight; his health, too, was materially affected. He came to us in July, 1920, and trained in netting and rug-making, but during the past few years his health had sadly deteriorated. He was admitted to hospital on February 17th, following a stroke, and he died there on February 27th.

A St. Dunstaner comrade, Mr. Ernest Russell, with Mrs. Russell, was present at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy is offered to Mrs. Simpson and her family.

Private Watkin Pritchard, *Royal Armoured Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. Pritchard, of Witton Park, Co. Durham, at the age of 72.

He enlisted in 1914 and was discharged from the Army in 1918, having been severely gassed the previous year, but it was only in 1952 that he came to St. Dunstan's. He had been a resident at West House for some time but his health had deteriorated considerably during the last few months and he died there on March 13th.

He was buried at Witton Park, his home; this was his wish.

Our very sincere sympathy goes out to his relatives and in particular, to Mrs. Matey.

Driver Peter Major Ingham, *Royal Engineers*

With deep regret we record the death of P. M. Ingham, of Woolton, Liverpool. He was 66.

Joining the Army in August, 1914, he was discharged in August, 1917, with injuries which had left him partially blind. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1943 and became a poultry farmer but his health during the last year or two had seriously deteriorated; he had also lost his hearing.

At the funeral at St. Peter's on the Hill, Woolton, the following St. Dunstaners were present. Captain Holloway, with Mrs. Holloway, Mrs. Violet Formstone, Mr. Owen and Mr. Blakeley, all representing St. Dunstan's Liverpool Club. Miss Doel, Welfare Visitor, was also present.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Ingham and her family.

Lance Corporal Arthur Holmes, *Royal Irish Fusiliers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Arthur Holmes, of Burley-in-Wharfedale. He was 66 and he died very suddenly at his home on March 20th.

He enlisted at the outbreak of war in August, 1914, and was severely wounded in the Battle of the Somme in September, 1915. He came to St. Dunstan's the following year and trained in poultry keeping and mat-making. In 1940, to make his contribution to the war effort, he started factory work and he continued this until 1945 when his health began to fail, and he did only a little mat-making at home.

He lost his wife some years ago and our deep sympathy is extended to his family.

Private Arthur Mawford, *1st Middlesex Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of A. Mawford, of St. Alban's, at the age of fifty-six.

He came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1931, and trained as a basket-maker but in 1949, his failing health forced him to give this work up. He was admitted to hospital on March 24th after a long illness and he died there quite suddenly on March 27th.

He leaves a widow, two sons and two daughters, to whom our deep sympathy is offered.

Continued on page 11

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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MAY, 1954

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Methods of Reading

(contributed)

IN the February issue of the REVIEW, the Chairman's Notes were devoted to an explanation of the achievements of Miss Mary Jameson, M.B.E. who appears to be the one person in the world who has made the use of the Optophone a practical proposition in dealing with her correspondence, and for reading suitable printed matter up to a speed of about forty words a minute.

Many St. Dunstaners would, however, regret to read that there seems little likelihood at present that the use of the Optophone can be extended so as to be available to others outside Miss Jameson's circle of friends. It must, therefore, be generally hoped that even yet someone may discover how to perfect this or some other machine for the purpose intended.

Meanwhile news of these individual achievements will fill us with wonderment and admiration at the courage and determination of those who succeed in mastering the use of the machine in its present stage of production.

When we learn of such methods of reading, we are inclined to the thought: "How many ways are there of reading, or of otherwise communicating with the blind, and the deaf, and above all, with the deaf-blind, or even with the deaf-dumb and blind person?"

To this question, most of us would reply by naming the obvious methods, beginning with Braille; then we might follow with the Moon system, the manual system for the deaf, and, maybe, the Morse Code, but as a reader of the latter, I would consider myself very expert indeed if I could even approach forty words a minute referred to in our Chairman's Notes.

Whilst some of my St. Dunstan's colleagues may have heard of, or even know something about yet another method of reading, they may forgive me if I relate my experiences when, about a year ago, I first met Mr. Joseph Hatton, aged 26 years, of St. Helens, Lancashire, who was born deaf and blind. It was at a dance at the St. Helen's Workshops for the Blind that I met Joseph along with his friend, and not being aware of the disabilities, I began to talk to Joseph but was told by his friend what the position was. He said, however, "You can speak to him if you care to," and reaching out for Joseph's hand he directed it towards my face and thereupon the hand was carefully placed under my chin with the thumb lightly resting across my lips. I was then told to carry on speaking rather slowly. The resulting conversation completely amazed me for I now realised that this young man had never heard sound in his life, yet here was I talking to him and he was talking back in reply, for he has been trained to control and use his voice.

Joseph entered the Henshaw School for the Blind in Manchester at the age of five and stayed seven years before being evacuated to Shropshire for four of the war years. For four years of the seven at the Manchester school he was being trained how to use his voice and how to say words as they were ordinarily spoken; more wonderful still, how to read what anyone might wish to say to him.

In addition and as may be expected, he is expert at Braille and in the use of the manual alphabet for the deaf. He also trained in basket-making, and this is his present occupation.

We have met on several occasions recently, and with my initial amazement overcome I know that with his hand "cupped" under my chin and his thumb resting vertically across my lips I can talk to him at about thirty-five or forty words a minute and he will reply.

When reading the throat vibrations combined with the lip movements, his concentration is absolute, and in his replies his voice is deliberate and his pronunciation very good.

It should be added that he is very careful to apply a germicide to his hands before touching anyone's lips, and that he can read in this manner with either the right or the left hand.

Whilst in his company recently, I witnessed his immediate identification of a person whom he had not met for several years, and he proceeded to carry on conversation with three people in turn by this lip and throat finger reading.

This method should not be confused with, nor can it be compared with, lip reading, which most sighted deaf persons resort to as an aid.

This clever young man has appeared on three occasions to demonstrate his skill on television, and perhaps because of this publicity many St. Dunstaners may have learned something of his outstanding achievements.

It would be interesting to learn how many persons there are in the world who are so trained and are able to apply their skill to such a degree of usefulness as Joseph Hatton.

Most of us know something of the sensitiveness of touch required to read Braille but I doubt if we can even vaguely appreciate the skill and sensitiveness of touch possessed by this young man of 26.

J. SHAW.

The Royal Tour

We have heard from A. F. McConnell, Hon. Secretary of the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association, that St. Dunstaners to meet Her Majesty when she visited Victoria were Messrs. P. J. Lynch, R. Archer, H. D. Power and L. E. Johnstone. H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh conversed with Eric Drew, who served throughout Wars I and II, and was a P.O.W. in the second. In South Australia, J. A. Whittle was presented, and J. T. Scrymgeour, of Queensland, who was awarded the O.B.E. in the New Year Honours, received his decoration from Her Majesty.

R.A.O.B.

On March 25th, Brother E. J. Squires, K.O.M. (Ringwood, Hants) was exalted to the 4th Degree (Roll of Honour). The ceremony was performed by Brother C. Warwick, R.O.H.

Elected

Congratulations to Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, M.C., who, in the Borough

Elections has been returned for the Maney Division of Sutton Coldfield with a majority of three hundred in a three-cornered contest.

Re-Elected

Congratulations, too, to Harry White, of Stalybridge, who was successful in retaining his seat at the Borough Council elections and was returned top of the poll, and to H. ("Bunny") Greatrex, of Peacehaven, who was returned again and also headed the poll.

Mr. A. W. Doughty

The Chairman, in his Notes last month, referred to the retirement of Mr. A. W. Doughty, and many St. Dunstaners have expressed a wish to subscribe to a presentation to him.

Mr. Askew has offered to act as Honorary Treasurer of the Fund, and St. Dunstaners who desire to associate themselves with the presentation should send their subscriptions to him at 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1.

London Club Notes

Indoor Section—

On April 7th our Darts team visited our old friends, Shell Mex Sports for a Darts Match. After a very enjoyable evening we beat them two games to one. The Darts team record so far is: Played three, won two, lost one.

The aggregate Whist competition for the Sir Arthur Pearson prize will start on Tuesday, September 21st, and continue on the five following Tuesdays, finishing on October 26th.

As in other years, a trip to the Derby will be arranged by Bob Willis, leaving by coach from H.Q. at 10 a.m. on June 2nd. The cost will be £1 per person; this includes a packed lunch and tea on the return journey. Should the cost be less than £1 the balance will be returned on the trip. Will those wishing to go let Mr. Willis have their names with the money.

We have received an invitation from the Enfield Working Men's Club to pay them a visit in June for a return darts match. Please watch the notice board for further details of this match as they hope to beat us on their own ground.

C. J. WALKER.

Bridge Notes

On April 3rd we lost the match against Mr. Phillips' team from the Post Office. On Saturday, April 24th, we were pleased to welcome new friends to our club, Mr. C. Head's team from the Willesden Town Hall. On this occasion our team were winners by a narrow margin.

W. BISHOP.

Outdoor Section—Road Walking

The Club season has finished but this does not mean that the walkers now go into recess until next winter. On the contrary, for we now have two or three friendly matches to come, the first being a 5 miles against the Bowering Athletic Club on Tuesday evening, June 15th, at 7 o'clock from Holme House, Inner Circle, Regent's Park. These are short distances and are used by the other clubs that we race to give their novices the feel of race walking, so if any St. Dunstaner is interested but doesn't join us because he feels that he will not have a chance, now is the time to start. He can begin training and enter these short races and, in general, get to know the "how and where" of walking and be ready to take part in club races when the next

season starts in September. All prizes are awarded on the handicap system and not first-to-finish.

Our ages vary between 30 and 58, and so the old tale of "too old at forty" doesn't apply to this sport. True enough, it is hard work, but the benefit you get in the way of physical fitness makes it all really worth while. Why not come along any Tuesday evening to Holme House, or, better still, drop a line to me at the London Club?

Seven Miles All-England Championship—It was very encouraging to find some of our members who have been laid up ignoring the comfort of an armchair and broadcast of the Cup Final to turn out in the All England Championship at Regent's Park on May 1st.

Ten of us were started by Mr. A. McSweeney, President of the Road Walking Association, and had a very tiring race. Six of us, including the faster members, who had been doing slow long distance training for the London to Brighton on May 22nd found it extremely hard to revert to a fast 7 miles. Consequently times were generally slower but none the less good.

Billy Miller retained his title for the third year in succession, closely followed by "old faithful" Archie Brown, with Charles Williamson third. The Sir Arthur Pearson prizes for first T.B. and first S.S. man home went to Charles Williamson and Bill Miller respectively, and the handicap prizes to Les Dennis, Charles Williamson and Archie Brown respectively.

This was the last Club race of the 1953-54 season and the aggregate points awarded on handicap over the season were totalled up afterwards. Charles Stafford was top in the T.B. section and Bill Miller in the S.S. Both received a small plaque to mark their success.

BILL MILLER.

St. Dunstan's Seven Mile Championship and Sealed Handicap Walk

Regent's Park, Saturday, 1st May, 1954

Order of Finish	Actual Time	H'cp All.	H'cp Time in H'cp.	Pos.
1. W. Miller ...	62:54	Scr.	62:54	6
2. A. Brown ...	63:47	1:50	61:57	3
3. C. Williamson ...	64:12	2:20	61:52	2
4. P. Cryan ...	66:32	2:40	63:52	7
5. S. Tutton ...	68:03	5:30	62:33	5
6. C. Stafford ...	71:27	9:20	62:07	4
7. L. Dennis ...	72:08	13:20	68:48	1
8 T. Gaygan ...	74:07	2:30	71:37	9
9. A. Bradley ...	74:17	7:30	66:47	8
10. D. Fleisig ...	77:41	4:50	72:51	10

Reunions

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were the Guests of Honour at the meeting at Doncaster on April 24th, one of the merriest parties of the year, as the *Doncaster Gazette* described it. Some fifty St. Dunstaners were present.

On April 29th, at Newcastle, Mr. D. G. Hopewell, Member of St. Dunstan's Council, was the Guest of Honour and welcomed more than thirty St. Dunstaners. A smaller, but equally enjoyable party had taken place two days before at Glasgow, with Mr. Hopewell again presiding. On Saturday, May 1st, Mr. Hopewell was Guest of Honour at Harrogate.

The Bournemouth Reunion was held a week later in weather so kind that the grounds of the Grand Hotel were able to be used. The guest of honour on this occasion was another Member of St. Dunstan's Council, the Rev. F. Darrell Bunt. Like Harrogate, this meeting was well attended, some fifty St. Dunstaners being present on each occasion.

★ ★ ★

The following alterations and confirmations to the list of Reunions printed in our March issue should be noted:—

The CARDIFF reunion will be held on *Saturday, July 3rd*, and not on Tuesday, June 15th.

The CHESTER reunion is confirmed for *Friday, June 18th*.

The BRIGHTON reunion is confirmed for *Wednesday, September 8th*.

Chess

As most St. Dunstaners will now know, the Chess Week-end this year will take place from the 24th to the 27th September at Ovingdean. Last year's event was a great improvement on the previous year, and we are hoping to beat all records this year. It was grand to meet old friends again and to make new ones and, from the chess-playing point of view, the more experience one gets the better.

I shall not be playing this year but shall be doing all that I can to make the week-end a happy and successful one. So come along lads, it does not matter if you are a strong player or a weak one, there is room for you and you can be sure of a hearty welcome. If you have not already booked up, just drop a line to Mr. Wills at H.Q.

CHARLIE KELK, *Chess Captain*.

Mrs. Swan

We have welcomed to this country and to St. Dunstan's during the past two months Mrs. G. I. Swan, M.B.E., who for two years has been Organising Secretary in South Africa, in succession to our old friend, "Batey." Mrs. Swan has been combining a well-earned holiday with business visits to our various establishments, in order to make herself acquainted with our work here. She has spent much time at Headquarters meeting heads of departments; she has had long talks with Sir Ian and Mr. Askew; she has visited Ovingdean and West House; and she has met many St. Dunstaners and members of the staff. She returns to South Africa as the REVIEW goes to press, and we wish her *bon voyage* and good luck on her return.

Out of the Frying Pan

We have committed the almost unforgivable. In last month's REVIEW we deprived Jock Macfarlane of his friends. Life, said Jock, gets tedious. We quoted him, "No drink, no bets, no bread, no potatoes, no *friends*, no fats." But what the doctor ordered was "no *frieds*."

As we go to press Jock is considering accepting our apology. We hope he will because we should hate to be deprived of this particular friend of ours.

E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition

This annual Braille Reading Competition was held at the National Library for the Blind on Saturday, May 8th, and our congratulations are extended to the following St. Dunstaners who were successful:—

Class C—Section 1: 1, J. Pryor.

2, J. Padley.

3, R. Armstrong.

4, M. Fulbrook.

Class C—Section 2: 1, S. Webster.

It was a most enjoyable day and our competitors thoroughly entered into the spirit of it.

Derby Sweepstake

The draw for the Derby Sweepstake, which closed on May 21st, will be made at the London Club on the evening of Friday, May 28th. All those drawing a horse will be notified by letter; lists will be available at Brighton, at Headquarters, and at the London Club.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Why so final in clamping down on the sweepstake controversy and subjects emanating therefrom? Many shots have been fired and now you bar the come-back of what might have turned out to be a lively and edifying correspondence. Surely this would have been better than the waste of so much precious space spent on the maudlin ramblings about the happenings of the "night before." Do explain what is wrong with healthy debate of the theme of religion. There is no need for you to choose letters dripping with Biblical quotations or sad with sentimentality.

The interest in the REVIEW is in its contents and turns on your discretion. Why are people disturbed by the subject of religion?

I had no idea that we had such eminent figures as Canons in our ranks. What a pity we hear so little from these erudite people.

I do not expect this letter to be published.

Yours sincerely,

West Wickham.

S. F. PRIDEAUX.

(The correspondence on the original controversy remains closed, but letters will be welcomed following Mr. Prideaux's line of thought.—ED.)

DEAR EDITOR,

At the Luton Reunion I was very staggered by Mr. Wills' statement of the very large number of Braille watches which my fellow St. Dunstaners had sent in for repair during the past year. We all know that a watch will break down at times no matter how careful one is, but in this case I do feel that a lot of this is due to carelessness. I feel too that a large number of St. Dunstaners do not appreciate the value of their Braille watches; if they had to pay for the repairs they would indeed be more careful. I know of some St. Dunstaners who carry their watches loose in the trouser pocket among their change; escorts have told me that the watches in question have been in a shocking state, for they are scratched all to pieces.

I am very proud to say that my Braille watch was presented to me in October, 1942, and is still ticking away merrily, keeps good time, and is looking in the same condition as it was on the day it was given to me. It has never been in for repair. Is this a record for a St. Dunstaner?

I value my watch very much indeed. I see to it that it is not left on the dressing table so that children can pick it up or get knocked off accidentally. I never overwind it at night; I always wind at about the same time; I count the turns, so as to leave the main spring with about one and a half turns to go. I always consider sudden changes of temperature. In the bitterly cold weather your watch is carried in the waistcoat pocket and is warmed by the heat of the body; you take it out, place it on the dressing table on a freezing cold night, the steel in the spring contracts then bang! and you have a broken spring. I wear my watch in a little linen bag, so if I stoop to pick something up from the ground, or tie a shoe lace, the bag will stop the watch from falling out. Even if it is on a strap the sudden jerk can do a watch a lot of harm. At night I always place my watch under my pillow. I always did this when I had my sight; the watch is very safe and is protected against accidents and changes of temperature.

Yours sincerely,

G. H. ("PETER") PIPER.

Watford.

Wound Pensions

From the Rev. A. C. Nugee.

DEAR EDITOR,

I suggest that there should be a new basis of assessment. At present we appear to be assessed on our disability. I am assessed at 100 per cent. That may be fair, but when I think of the totally blind and those who have other disabling injuries as well, it seems quite unfair that they and I should have the same basic assessment, as after all no one can be more than 100 per cent. disabled.

But if the basis of assessment were the pension, then those who have suffered the total loss of some faculty could be assessed at over 100 per cent. pension and those with further injuries would receive still higher percentage of pension, even up to twice or thrice the basic pension. This should be their basic assessment irrespective of what they are capable of doing in the way of gainful occupation. Special allowances, if any are needed, should be assessed after.

I am sure, too, that multiple injuries are cumulative in their disabling effect and would deserve a much higher percentage of pension in proportion to those who have one injury.

There is another group whom I think deserve special consideration, the over sixties. I know I shall be amongst them myself if I live a few more years, but that is not the reason for my writing this. We lose the physical and psychological resilience of youth, and it may well be that some will have to give up their work before the normal age of retirement because their disability has become more disabling.

There are probably many good reasons why my suggestions are unwise and impracticable, but I believe them to be a method by which the assessment of wound pensions can be made more equitable.

Yours sincerely,
A. C. NUGEE.

Crowthorne Vicarage.

Third College Reunion

DEAR EDITOR,

The third College Reunion was held at the Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly, on the 24th April, when about seventy sat down to a most excellent lunch. After lunch the room was buzzing with animation and conversation. Everybody knew everybody and all were reminiscing. One heard such remarks as "Do you remember how Sir Arthur used to clear his throat with two coughs before he spoke?" and here followed a most wonderful imitation of the two coughs. Then one heard, "Do you remember what a shy, lanky boy Sir Ian was when he first came to us?"

The old College days were lived over again and the consensus of opinion was **THOSE WERE THE DAYS.**

We of the College are very lucky in having still with us such organising ability as that of Nurse Lloyd, Miss Miller and our own Scottie. Great credit and praise is due to them for the very excellent way they organise and carry out these reunions. One College reunion is worth half a dozen local reunions, and I have wondered why other houses have not copied it. It really does one good.

Yours exuberantly,
Thetford. B. A. HAMILTON.

DEAR EDITOR,

On Saturday last I had the privilege and pleasure to attend the Reunion of the "boys" who were at the College, Regent's Park, in the early days.

I have attended many reunions, school, regimental, and St. Dunstan's, but never

one quite so intimate as Saturday's gathering. Everybody knew and chatted with everybody. It was delightful to hear the swopping of tales of the happenings of long ago.

Most of the "boys" had travelled a long distance to be present, as also had some of the "sisters" who were at the College, and this I think proves that the St. Dunstan's spirit is still with us, and will go on over the years.

Yours sincerely,
PERCY R. LALE.

Palmers Green, N.13.

Postal Rates

The Postmaster General has announced that as from April 12th, the list of articles for the blind which can be sent at specially reduced rates of postage has been extended. Among the articles which may now be sent *under special conditions* are Braille watches and clocks, and tools, measures and collapsible walking sticks, specially adapted for the use of the blind.

In addition, all the articles which can be sent at the cheap rates within the United Kingdom can also be sent at the same rates to the Irish Republic; in the past only literature for the blind has been admitted at the cheap rates.

Leaflets, in letterpress and Braille, giving full details of the above may be obtained, free of charge, from the Royal National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

Placements

J. Embleton, as a telephonist with the Ministry of Labour, Hart Road, West Hartlepool; J. L. Read in the Inspection Department of Messrs. Vickers-Armstrong, Ltd., Weybridge.

Reaction to My First Game of Bowls

*While poising to bowl from the mat,
And stooping to hoist up my slacks,
Quite far away, "Jack," though you may be,
In nautical terms you are saying to me,
I'm small and white, just like a pill
In no way related to that girl named Jill,
So why should I bother about you, Bill,
As long as I'm alright.*

BILL LACEY.

Liverpool Club Notes

On May Day the Club paid a visit to our old friends, the members of the Darts Club at Pleasington, near Blackburn.

We started off at 2 p.m. and the weather did not look too promising, but if the barometer was low the spirits of the party were high. After a pleasant run through the countryside as we approached our destination the clerk at the waterworks turned on all the taps and we arrived in a downpour, accompanied by thunder and lightning; as we had all given away our Cup Final tickets to come here, we heard the big match on the wireless in our coach instead. As the match drew to a close, so did the storm, and as the final goal was scored a last peal of thunder drowned the cheers of the Wembley crowd, so we did not know who had scored for some time. When we knew Preston had lost, being good sportsmen we all agreed the best team had won.

The storm having abated and the sun shining once more, we all trooped into the Railway Hotel and were warmly welcomed by our good hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Hindle and the members of the Darts Club and their good ladies.

They soon had us sat down to a sumptuous tea, plenty of everything and all home-made.

Those who had starved themselves for a week were disappointed to find they had no room for any "wallop."

Having satisfied the inner man, table cloths were removed and we proceeded to the serious business of living up to our reputation of darts and domino champions. Although we did not win at darts, we levelled things up at dominoes. Although our hosts started and finished the game on a double, after seeing their prowess we decided we had better do this with the aid of a beer-glass.

Games being over, we all gathered in the "Snug," and had a good sing-song; the Lion Brew here is specially good for the throat, and we made the rafters ring; our two pianists, Miss Doel and Mrs. Lincoln, certainly kept us going.

Alas, all good things come to an end, so at 9 p.m., with appropriate speeches of thanks to our good friends and hosts by Joe Blackely, Harry Matthews, and Jimmy Owens, we reluctantly had to say farewell, and promised to come again later in the year.

I may mention we were all glad to see Bob Britton and his pal, "Taffy." No party at Pleasington is the same without him.

"SWANEE."

Ovingdean Broadcast

A young St. Dunstaner, Maurice Aldridge, who had served on H.M.S. *Eagle*, and who has only very recently been admitted to Ovingdean for training, made an able contribution in a B.B.C. broadcast from the South Coast as H.M.Y. *Britannia* sailed up the Channel on Friday evening, May 14th.

The broadcast was entirely unexpected and it was only at 8 o'clock that evening that we knew we would be on the air. Maurice's remarks in such an impromptu interview were therefore most praiseworthy.

We feel he expressed the feelings of all St. Dunstaners when, in reply to Max Robertson's question "What is the feeling of St. Dunstaners in regard to the Queen's return?" he said "As a St. Dunstaner I can, with perfect certainty, say that every one of us here is greatly fond of the Queen and very interested in her work. We know that the recent tour has done a great amount of good for Great Britain, and after five months' absence we are very pleased to know that she has returned in safety.

"We are very proud to have the Queen as Patron of St. Dunstan's and as we are all ex-Service men we owe a lot to the Queen and the Royal Family, and we feel that she has a personal interest in us and our welfare."

Ovingdean Sports Day

As entries for field events are likely to be few this year, it has been decided to hold a Garden Party instead of our usual Sports Day, on *Saturday, July 10th, 1954*. We hope to provide entertainment for all who join us on that day, including some field events which will be held according to entries received during the afternoon.

Will all those intending to join us and wishing to take part in field events, please write direct to Mr. Jarrold, at Ovingdean.

Test Results

Typing—R. Wharton, K. Cooper, A. Dean (Australian), J. Harris (Borderline), V. Robins.

Preliminary—J. Walker, A. Dean (Australian).

Advanced—E. W. Stevenson, R. Buckley (Officer), Miss D. Phillippo, T. Giles.

Writing—F. Walker, J. Embleton, E. Jordan, W. Fulbrook, L. McCredie (Australian officer).

Briefly

R. E. Naman, now of Braintree, worked at Salford for eighteen years and not ten, as reported in the *Salford Reporter* and quoted in last month's REVIEW.

★ ★ ★

Harry G. Boorman, of Peterborough, has completed another most successful season with a production of "Lilac Domino." The next production will be "Oklahoma."

★ ★ ★

The Spring number of "Health Horizon" contained an excellent article on "Physiotherapy—a Means and an End," by our old friend, J. D. ("Duggie") Calder.

★ ★ ★

Des Coupe had the heavy responsibility of making the F.A. Cup finalists, Preston North End, fighting fit for their tough, hard fight on May 1st. Well played, Des—and Preston.

★ ★ ★

A three-page article by Maureen Lees appeared in "Illustrated" on April 17th. It was the leading story and was accompanied by some excellent photographs of Maureen in her workshop.

★ ★ ★

Arthur and Mrs. Relf are active members of Slough Trading Estate British Legion Darts Club, and Mrs. Relf recently won the Wethered Cup for Ladies.

★ ★ ★

G. Pollard, of Rothwell, who is employed by British Railways, is the local Appeals Chairman of the British Legion, and a member of the Trades Council of Kettering, among other activities.

★ ★ ★

R. Clark McNeil, of Haddington, Midlothian, gave the "Address to the Haggis" at the anniversary dinner of the Edinburgh Burns Club. A caption to a picture in the *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch* said: "Mr. R. C. McNeil held everyone's attention when, with many eloquent gestures, he gave the 'Address to the Haggis.' . . . Others in the group include Lord Provost Sir James Miller and the Lady Provost. . . ."

★ ★ ★

H. Perkins, of Edgware, won fourth prize for his allotment under the Council Competition from among seventy-five entrants. He has only held his land since early 1953.

J. Halmsall, of Southport, was awarded a Certificate of Merit at Southport Congregation Eisteddfod, 1954.

★ ★ ★

Margaret Stanway, of Morecambe, entered a competition for Boarding House Queen ("it wasn't a beauty competition," she says), open to people who owned, or managed a boarding house, and although she did not win it she had good publicity in the northern papers. One of the judges was Miss Jessie Matthews. Margaret was introduced to her and they had quite a chat.

★ ★ ★

Reg. Craddock, of Warrington, does all the organising of his office football team matches, and never misses a game. He goes regularly with a friend to watch Warrington Rugby League games.

★ ★ ★

Talking Book Library American April

After last month's large crop of releases, there are only two imported books to bring to your notice this month. Here goes:—

"The Sea Around Us," by Rachel L. Carson, reader Milton Metz, is no rollicking pirate story but an attempt to trace the history of our oceans since the days when Earth was a gaseous puff-ball. The story, though semi-scientific, is simply and concisely told, and the authoress finds room to forecast a little what will happen to our seas before the next few million years are out. Sea life has its seasons just as we have ours and the book is stuffed with interesting information.

"The Last of the Mohicans," by J. Fenimore Cooper, reader Paul Clark, has nothing to offer the sophisticated reader but, to simple coves like myself, the charm and thrill remain as they were when I read the book at ten years old. The journeying of a pair of girls through the wilderness of northern New York State, the French fighting the English, and Indians fighting for one or other side and for themselves, are all manipulated into a coherent adventure story with a singing master thrown in as comic or pathetic relief. Rather a bloody book but a pleasant drop of fiction!

N.B.—The Kraken does not appear in Miss Carson's book. "NELSON."

Books reviewed this month:—

"The Sea Around Us," *Cat. No. 878.*

"The Last of the Mohicans," *Cat. No. 881.*

Likes and Dislikes

Although the following verses arrived too late to be included in our recent competition, they are printed here for their merit.

*I like the smell of a good cigar,
Relaxed, content,
The bouquet of a goodly wine,
Sunshine blent,
And of fragrant bitter coffee—
Strong and full
With just a Turkish cigarette,
Istanbul.*

*I like the smell of leather—old
Books and chair.
Of beeswaxed furniture and floors,
Loving care,
Of logs aburning on the hearth,
Sleep is near.
Pot pourri in a china bowl—
Memories dear.*

*I like the smell of scented soaps
In cloudy steam,
Of bath salts with enchanting names,
They make me dream,
Of faint elusive perfumes,
Exotic, rare,
Of joss sticks burning in a dish,
Mystic fare.*

*I like the smell of warm soap suds
On washing day,
The scorchy smell of ironing,
Creases away.
I like all smells of cleanliness—
Strong allure,
Of lavender in a linen press,
Fresh and pure.*

*I like the smell of fresh-turned earth,
Promise of life.
I like the smell of English herbs—
Withhold your knife.
I like the scent of flowers
We all can share,
Of gardens washed by Summer rain—
So pure the air.*

*I like the smell of new mown hay
Spread adrying,
Of bonfires on an Autumn day,
Rot defying.
I like the smell of stables—
Hard to define,
And the heavy warm smell of byres,
Cattle in line.*

*I like the pungent smell of spices,
Oriental,
And of sandalwood and cedar,
Sentimental.
I've never travelled distant lands,
The world over,
But through perfumes and through scents
I'm a rover.*

*I like to feel the sun ashining
Warming me well throughout
I like to feel the rain afalling,
Breaking a Summer drought
I like to feel the wind arising
Ending humidity,
I like to feel the snow athawing,
Easing mobility.*

*I like to feel a car aspeeding,
Swaying me in my seat.
I like to feel the turf aspringing
Helping my weary feet.
I like to feel a punt agliding,
Creeping to where I hide,
I like to feel a boat abobbing,
Riding a gentle tide.*

*I like to feel bed springs asinking
Giving my body rest.
I like to feel my chair amoulding—
Holding me as a nest.
I like to feel my hammock aswinging
Bringing me dreams untold.
I like to feel my Rocker aracking,
Creaking—both getting old.*

*I like so much, I'm left asighing—
Sighing with joy you see,
Time and Life are both flying,
Just now, no more from me.*

Let 'Em Swing

<i>I hate swing,</i>	<i>Crooner's song,</i>
<i>Wind and string,</i>	<i>Something wrong,</i>
<i>Pots and pans,</i>	<i>"I'm so blew,</i>
<i>Old tin cans.</i>	<i>Yew ain't trew."</i>
<i>Blaring brass,</i>	<i>Lover's tale,</i>
<i>Shattered glass,</i>	<i>Dreadful wail,</i>
<i>Crazy drum,</i>	<i>Dragging pace,</i>
<i>Things they strum,</i>	<i>Pained grimace.</i>
<i>Piano,</i>	<i>Modern way</i>
<i>Mad tempo,</i>	<i>So they say,</i>
<i>Rapid whacks</i>	<i>Close accord?</i>
<i>Whites and blacks.</i>	<i>Strange discord.</i>
<i>All the boys</i>	<i>Home again</i>
<i>Join the noise,</i>	<i>Mission Men,</i>
<i>Harmony?</i>	<i>Duty clear,</i>
<i>Devilry.</i>	<i>Heathen here.</i>

W. CHAS. TAPLIN.

Amateur Theatricals

Where talking to one's self becomes a virtue, there is a complete, new, satisfying world for any blind person who may be interested. Singing in the bath does not usually imply "shortage upstairs," so why should talking to one's self? In order to perform a "part" in a play it is necessary to speak the phrases aloud and it is best done in privacy.

Some time ago I took part as a doctor in a production in Worcester and several other places. It went well and was most enjoyable. Given a fairly quick comprehension of a "room" or "set," it is not at all difficult to do one's part reasonably well.

There is also another side to this activity, namely, it brings us into fairly close human contact with several sighted people, who, being interested, will bother to learn our little special needs, and who will soon learn to realise how much "seeing" we can do without physical sight. I found it good as a tonic also, for memory and morale.

Quite separate from "the job in hand," it also means that one acquires a set of nice friends who will greet one cheerfully in the street or the Inn.

On stage the performers move in a certain, known set of ways, and one need not address remarks to the wrong person, or, worse still, to the wrong place.

As I say, I have found this a satisfying, interesting experience, and one which I think St. Dunstaners might enjoy.

A. V. LAW.

Young St. Dunstaners

Alison Boyd, Brighton, has passed her third M.B. examination at the Medical School of Leeds University.

Freddie Eastwood (Middlesbrough), a fine swimmer, was one of the team of four which won for his school the Sheard Cup for life-saving.

Gillian Cooke, of Kingston on Thames, is a "cover girl" at the age of 4. She has been photographed as a model for Bestway patterns and is on the cover of "Home Chat" this month.

Marriages

On April 22nd, John D. A. Floyd, Teignmouth, to Miss Margaret M. Slade.

Margaret Joyce Frampton, Higham Park, on March 13th, to A. G. King.

On April 6th, the daughter of J. Halsall, of Southport.

On April 3rd, Arnold Taylor, Swindon.

Births

ALLEN.—On April 5th, to the wife of W. Allen, of Aldershot, a son—Paul Howard.

BLACKWELL.—On April 29th, to the wife of J. E. Blackwell, of Reading, a daughter—Jean Margaret.

DODGSON.—On April 21st to the wife of A. Dodgson, of Wimbledon, a daughter—Elaine.

GALWAY.—On April 27th, to the wife of F. Galway, of Sandbach, Cheshire, a son—Andrew.

PADLEY.—On April 29th, to the wife of J. J. Padley, of Brighton, a son—Anthony James.

POINTON.—On May 8th, to the wife of A. C. Pointon, of Bexhill-on-Sea—a son.

TUCKER.—On April 6th, to the wife of E. G. Tucker, of Dulwich, a daughter—Susan Dorothy.

Marriage

BISHOP—KNIGHT.—On May 8th, W. Bishop, of Croydon, to Mrs. L. Knight.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

CARTHY.—To W. J. Carthy, of Rainworth, whose mother died on April 24th.

CURNOW.—To A. L. Curnow, of Bexley Heath, who has lost his sister.

RAY.—To C. Ray, of Clacton-on-Sea, whose wife died on April 15th.

STROUD.—To A. Stroud, of Battersea, who lost his father in November.

THOMPSON.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. Thompson, of Parkstone, Dorset, whose little grand-daughter died in December.

WINDRIDGE.—To O. Windridge, of Wigston Magna, Leicester, whose wife passed away on May 10th after much suffering.

Forty-five Years Married

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. A. Bennett, of Dover, who celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on April 24th.

Grandfathers

Leonard Ollier, Bury; W. Wright, Verwood, Dorset; L. Howell, Haywards Heath (four grandchildren now); A. T. Brooks, of Bournemouth; V. J. Fennell, Tooting (for for twelfth time); J. R. Brown, Nuneaton; E. G. Palmer, Poole; H. Wordsworth, Gainsborough; H. Temple Coates, Hutton; and for H. Randall, Hove, a double event: Mavis had a son on April 10th, and Valerie a daughter on the 13th.

"In Memory"—continued**C.S.M. George Edward Lund, G.M., *Highland Light Infantry***

It is with deep regret that we record the death of G. E. Lund, of West Hartlepool, at the age of 53. He enlisted in 1923 and was discharged from the Army in 1945. He was wounded in Holland, losing his left eye and the right being severely damaged. He also had other injuries to his face and right hand. For his action in rescuing wounded comrades trapped in a minefield on the Walcheren Islands in 1944 until a shoe mine exploded and blinded him, he was awarded the George Medal. The citation said "for cold, calculated bravery of the highest order."

After training at St. Dunstan's he became a telephone operator at West Hartlepool Labour Exchange. Mr. W. E. Gatenby, Exchange Manager, said of him, "He was a very fine personality. He was always full of life and most competent at his job."

He was given a military funeral, a piper from the Highland Light Infantry playing a Scottish funeral march and Scottish Lament on the bagpipes as the cortège proceeded to the Church. Colour Sergeant D. Martin, who served with him at Walcheren Islands, also represented the Regiment.

To Mrs. Lund we offer our deep sympathy.

Gunner Thomas Kent, *Royal Horse Artillery*

We record with deep regret the death of T. Kent, of Chelmsford, at the age of 56. He died suddenly on April 5th.

He came to us immediately upon his discharge from the Service in October, 1918, and he trained as a joiner. He continued with this work to the end, in spite of failing health.

Comrades of the Royal Artillery Association paid their last tribute by forming a guard of honour at the funeral; there were also present a representative of the British Legion, and his St. Dunstaner comrade, Mr. S. Letch, with Mrs. Letch.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his widow and her step-family.

Sergeant Sidney William James Macpherson, *King's Royal Rifle Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of S. W. J. Macpherson, of Brighton, who died at West House on April 16th, at the age of seventy.

Coming to St. Dunstan's in September, 1932, he trained as a telephonist and he continued with this work until his retirement in 1950. He had only been admitted to West House a few days before his death.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his wife and daughter.

Private George Bullen, *Middlesex A.V.C. and Labour Corps*

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of G. Bullen, of Brighton. He was seventy-three. Discharged from the Army in March, 1918, he came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1936. He was trained as a netter, but his health had been very poor for a number of years. His death nevertheless, on April 25th, was very sudden.

Our very sincere sympathy is extended to his sons and to Miss Atherton, his housekeeper who had looked after him for fourteen years.

Private William Allen, *10th Manchester Regt.*

We record with deep regret the death of W. Allen, of Torrisholme, near Morecambe.

He saw service from 1914 until 1916, being severely wounded at the Dardanelles. In addition to loss of sight, his right hand was amputated. He came to us that year and in 1919 opened a tobacconist's shop but some years later gave this up for rug-making. His health had seriously deteriorated during the last few years but his death on April 18th was not expected.

He was a lifelong member of the R.A.O.B. and members from local Lodges attended the funeral and paid moving tributes to his memory. The many wreaths included those from the R.A.O.B. and the British Legion.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his widow and family.

W. A. Blackett, G. F. Joyner and W. Crossley, *Australian Forces*

We have heard with deep regret from Mr. A. F. McConnell, of the deaths of W. A. Blackett, of Launceton, Tasmania; G. F. Joyner, of Caulfield, Victoria; and W. Crossley, Holland Park, Queensland.

Alex Blackett and George Joyner were World War I men who were trained at St. Dunstan's, and both had represented Western Australia and Tasmania at the Conferences of the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association. George Joyner came to St. Dunstan's in 1917, trained as a poultry farmer and mat-maker and returned to Australia, but he had made one or two trips to England and will be well-known to many. William Crossley was admitted to the Queensland Association recently and was a most highly respected member of that organisation.

To their relatives our deep sympathy is offered.

Corporal George Robert Williams, *Royal Field Artillery*

We record with deep regret the death of G. R. Williams, of Tonbridge. He was seventy-one.

He served in the First World War and was discharged in December, 1918, but he only came to us in March of this year and was not able to undertake any training. His death occurred suddenly on May 16th.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his wife and family.

“ In Memory ”

Private James Linden Housdon, *8th King's Irish Liverpools*

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death, on May 2nd, of J. L. Housdon, of Whitchurch, Shropshire, in his sixty-second year.

He enlisted in 1916 and was discharged the following year. As a result of enemy action, he not only lost his sight but he also suffered injuries to his left hand.

He came to us that year and trained in netting and poultry-farming, the latter for lectures only. A tobaccoist in Manchester, he became very interested in poultry and this was his occupation until the end of his life. He had, however, suffered considerably during the last few years.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his sister, who had cared for him for so long.

Private Arthur Seal, *Shropshire Light Infantry*

We record with deep regret the death, on May 11th, of A. Seal, of Portesham, Weymouth, at the age of sixty.

When he came to St. Dunstan's in May, 1916, he trained in netting and basket-making. For a few years he worked as a netter and then went on to wool rugs, which work he did until his death.

He leaves a widow to whom our very sincere sympathy is offered.

Private William Walter Clark, *6th City of London Rifles*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. W. Clark, of Lee, S.E.12.

Wounded at Festubert in May, 1915, he entered St. Dunstan's shortly afterwards. "Nobby," as he was known to his friends, trained in mat-making and basket-making, but during the last eighteen years had been employed as a machinist in a factory.

His health had gradually deteriorated since the war, but even so his sudden death on April 25th, at the age of fifty-nine, was a great shock to his wife and five sons.

Interment was at Charlton Cemetery.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his family.

Shoeing Smith Ralph Paterson, *Royal Field Artillery*

With deep regret we record the death of Ralph Paterson, of Thirsk, in his sixty-third year.

Enlisting in 1914, he was discharged in 1918, and came to us towards the end of 1921. He was trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker but for some time his health had only allowed him to do light netting.

Just before his last illness, it was his sad task to have his guide dog, Marshall, destroyed. There was much public sympathy and a fund was raised to provide Ralph with a new dog, but he did not live to meet him.

Captain C. Harris, a St. Dunstaner, attended the funeral with Mrs. Harris; the Lord of the Manor of Thirsk was present, and Dr. McArthur represented local doctors. Members of the British Legion lined the funeral route.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

Private Herbert Taylor, *East Lancashire Regt.*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. Taylor, of Blackburn, which occurred very suddenly on March 23rd; arrangements had been made for him to spend a holiday at Ovingdean, for he had only just come under our care.

An old soldier—he enlisted in 1902—he was discharged in 1915, having lost the sight of both eyes as a result of gunshot wounds, but it was only in February, 1954, that his case was brought to our notice.

He leaves a widow to whom our very sincere sympathy is offered.

Gunner Cyril Pallanza, *Royal Artillery*

With deep regret we record the death of C. Pallanza, of Edgware. He was sixty.

He was discharged from the Army in 1919, but only came to us in January, 1951. His poor health then prevented any training. His condition had deteriorated recently and he had been in Northwood District Hospital for a short time when he died suddenly on April 19th.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his brother.

Private Herbert Lee, *19th Durham Light Infantry*

We record with deep regret the death of H. Lee, of Moorends, near Doncaster. He was 67.

He was discharged from the Army in 1917 after a year's service, his sight having been seriously affected. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1933 and trained as a basket-maker. He was also a successful rabbit-keeper. During the last year or so, however, his health had deteriorated rapidly and he died on April 11th, at West House, where he had been cared for in his last short, serious illness.

To Mrs. Lee and her family our very sincere sympathy is offered.

Corporal Aubrey Hayes, *Royal Army Medical Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Aubrey Hayes, of West Malling, at the age of fifty-six.

He served in the First World War, but came to St. Dunstan's notice in 1952. His state of health, however, prevented any training. He became progressively worse and three months ago was admitted to West House, where he died on May 14th.

To his widow and two grown-up children (by his first marriage) our deep sympathy goes.

(continued on page 11)

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

BRIGHTON-HOVE
GREAT BRITAIN
PAID 1/2
25 JUNE 1954

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Making Braille Books Smaller

MR. SOMERSET MAUGHAM, the famous novelist, in his new book which is appearing in serialised form in the *Sunday Times*, advocates—for sighted readers, of course—the condensation of books, including certain of the classics. Mr. Maugham says:

“There are few novels which it is possible to read from beginning to end with unfailing interest. Though skipping may be a bad habit, it is one that is forced upon the reader. . .

“Some students of literature, some professors and some critics, will exclaim that it is a shocking thing to mutilate a masterpiece and that it should be read as the author wrote it. That depends on the masterpiece.

“There is nothing reprehensible in cutting. Few plays have ever been produced that were not to their advantage more or less drastically cut in rehearsal . . . I know no reason why a novel should not be subjected to a similar process.”

I have often thought how much more strongly the need for condensation applies to Braille books. The labour of reading with your finger is relatively so great that you want to be sure that what you pick out is worth while. And, of course, “skipping” is much more difficult in Braille reading.

Some of you may have read in Braille the condensations of some of the best-sellers in the United States which appear in the “Reader’s Digest,” and will have appreciated the pleasure and benefit of the full-length novel without tedious description or unnecessary detail.

I would like the Royal National Institute for the Blind and the Braille Printing Works at Edinburgh, who are our great Braille publishers, most seriously to consider this matter.

Another aspect of the idea of making Braille books smaller has come to me in a letter from Mr. Fred Ripley. He said:

“Now that an increasing number of blind people are travelling in trains, buses and coaches, and working in offices, factories and hospitals, I feel that there is a real need for some less cumbersome Braille books. At present, all full-length books are made in volumes which are bulky to carry, too space-occupying when open to read in a public vehicle and uncomfortably conspicuous to bring out in a waiting room or works canteen. This is

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unfortunate because for the blind, travelling and waiting time is particularly tedious if they are not able to read.

"I suggest that 'Travellers' Editions' be produced. These would be modern fiction books (short in length so as not to run into too many volumes), Brailled in half-size volumes, with the spiral wire binding which was at one time used for 'Pandas' and has the great advantage of permitting the reader to turn each page back underneath the book as it is read, so avoiding the width of an open book."

I think experiments should be made in this field also. I should be interested to know what Braille readers and travellers think about this.

IAN FRASER.

The Honours List

Two St. Dunstaners of the First World War and a young officer now in training at Ovingdean have been honoured by Her Majesty the Queen. In the Birthday Honours List, the O.B.E. was awarded to J. A. Whittle, who trained as a physiotherapist at St. Dunstan's in 1935-37; Mr. Whittle is Hon. Secretary of the Blinded Soldiers' Association of South Australia and was Chairman of the recent Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association Federal Biennial Congress. He is honoured "for services to blinded ex-servicemen."

Allan Foster McConnell, who trained at St. Dunstan's after the First World War and has been Hon. Secretary-Treasurer of the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association for very many years, received an M.B.E. "for services to blinded ex-servicemen."

Second Lieut. Michael Tetley, of the Kenya Regiment (T.F.), has been awarded the M.B.E. "in recognition of services in connection with the disturbances in Kenya."

Of interest also to St. Dunstaners is the award of the C.B.E. to Capt. William James Hutchinson, Chief Constable, Brighton County Borough Police Force, and of the O.B.E. to William Thomas Polkinghorne, Head Postmaster, Brighton. Irish St. Dunstaners will learn with pleasure of the award of an O.B.E. to Mrs. Wright, J.P., of Belfast, "for services to disabled ex-servicemen in Northern Ireland."

The Derby Sweepstake, 1954

The draw for the Derby Sweepstake took place as arranged at the London Club on Friday evening, May 28th. It had been widely advertised, but so bad was the night—it rained heavily and incessantly all the evening—that not a single St. Dunstaner turned up to witness it. However, with the help of Mr. Bob Willis and Miss Ibbetson, who made the actual draw, in

the presence of Mrs. Willis, Miss Wright (late of the Rug Department) and the Editor of the REVIEW, the lucky numbers were drawn. The sale of tickets had been exceptionally good. The total number sold was 2,781, and after printing and postage expenses had been deducted (£15 2s. 6d.), a sum of £332 10s. 0d. was left for distribution in accordance with the printed rules. The result was as follows:—

1st Never Say Die F. J. Mears, Beeston
Ticket No. 1508 ... £166 5s. 0d.

2nd Arabian Night W. Lowings, Chandlers Ford
Ticket No. 2194 ... £66 10s. 0d.

3rd Darius A. Trill, Ringwood
Ticket No. 513 ... £33 5s. 0d.

Those drawing starters received £3 10s. each. They were as follows:—

Alpenhorn	F. C. Hilling, Folkestone	1404
Blue Prince II	M. Delaney, Maidenhead	461
Blue Rod	C. Ray, Clacton	151
Blue Sail	F. C. Hilling, Folkestone	1407
Cloonroughan	J. F. Martin, Boreham Wood	1261
Court	G. M. Jordan, Hove	2715
Splendour		
Dark Corsair	W. White, Little Clacton	1130
Elopement	J. Murray, N.11	2563
Ferriol	C. E. Maker, Horrabridge	562
Hylas	J. Macfarlane, Ilford	1429
Kingsloe	H. Allsop, Smethwick	1996
Landau	R. E. Naman, Braintree	1246
L'Avengro	J. F. Harris, Ovingdean	2674
Moonlight		
Express	J. H. Parker, Ovingdean	1450
Rokimos	H. Mortimer, Wendover	441
Rowston		
Manor	J. Ingram, Maidenhead	450
Ruwenzori	R. G. Beard, Winnersh	695
Narrator	E. D. Oxborough, Gt. Yarmouth	125
Valerullah	E. Lake, Scarborough	2371

R. Smith, of Seaford, drew Ambler II (Ticket 1999) and W. J. Markwick, of N. Moulsecoomb, drew Infatuation (2555), which most unfortunately were scratched. A. Foster, of Trillick, Co. Tyrone, drew The Field. (2539).

London Club Notes

Indoor Section

On May 10th the darts team was invited to the Addiscombe British Legion Club for a match, with other games and a social evening. The team was unlucky at darts, losing two games to one. It would seem that the team could do with a little more practice in finishing; that is where we are losing games. Charlie Luker very kindly brought his conjuring apparatus along, by special request, and gave a very good show which was well applauded by the company. Charlie Hancock gave a monologue which also went down well and added a spice of variety to the usual evening's fun.

On May 24th we had a return match with the Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind, at the Club. This match we won by two games to none, thereby gaining our revenge for the beating we got when we visited them. Cribbage and dominoes were also played. This was another good evening.

The "Sir Arthur Pearson Competitions" have started and we hope entrants will press on with these, as later on the aggregate whist will take up six weeks after the holidays.

C. J. WALKER.

Bridge Section

The second bridge drive of the year was held at the Club on Saturday, May 15th (9 tables), Mr. C. Head filling the role of M.C. The prize-winners were: 1st, Mr. and Mrs. Wiltshire 2,670; 2nd, L. Douglas and partner 2,360; 3rd, S. Webster and partner 1,560. H. Miller and partner won the consolation prize with the lowest minus score.

We lost the match on Saturday, May 22nd, against a team from Hoover's.

On Saturday, May 29th, after a keenly contested game against our old friends, Mr. A. Field's team, we were once again the losers.

Forthcoming Event

Harrogate Bridge Week, September 4th-11th.

Will all members wishing to take part in this event please send their names to Mr. R. Willis at the Club not later than Monday, July 26th, so that all arrangements for reserving rail and hotel accommodation can be completed. The hotel charge will be £7 17s. 6d.

W. BISHOP (*Capt., Sec.*)

Outdoor Section—Brighton Walk.

Five St. Dunstaners were among the 32 competitors who started in the Stock Exchange London to Brighton walk on May 22nd. The start was at 7 a.m. from Westminster Bridge, the course through Croydon, Horley, Redhill, Crawley, and so on to the Aquarium at Brighton, 52½ miles in all. All the members were in good form at Crawley, after approximately 30 miles. Pat Cryan was the leader of them, followed by Archie Brown, Charles Williamson, Billy Miller and Charles Stafford some little way behind. Here a very disappointed Billy Miller had to stop to have a badly blistered heel attended to. After a few minutes delay, Billy got started again, and eventually regained his confidence and fighting spirit and walked so well as to make a new St. Dunstan's record, finishing 6th in the actual race. Charles Williamson finished 7th, Archie Brown 8th, Pat Cryan 9th, Charles Stafford 10th. Each one put up a marvellous performance and are to be highly congratulated. St. Dunstan's London to Brighton certificates will be presented to them in due course.

Times at Crawley:

		Hrs.	Mins.	Secs.
P. Cryan	...	5	22	29
A. Brown	...	5	26	04
C. Williamson	...	5	26	07
W. Miller	...	5	34	31

Finishing Times at Aquarium, Brighton:

W. Miller	...	9	35	14
C. Williamson	...	9	55	36
A. Brown	...	9	58	58
P. Cryan	...	10	1	35
C. Stafford	...	10	45	45

W. M.

Domino Corner

W. H. Wright, of Verwood, won the Cup for the Domino Tournament at his British Legion Club, and the same night, his son, Arthur, won the Cup for Crib.

★ ★ ★

The *Southern Daily Echo*, May 10th, said: "Special cheer at the prize-winning social held at the Queen's Restaurant on Thursday night by the East River Domino League was reserved for a man whose name did not appear in the prize-list—Bill Farmery. Mr. Farmery turned out for his side—the Rising Sun—for the first time last season. His play commanded respect."

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I welcome Mr. Prideaux's suggestion in last month's *REVIEW*.

I have many friends among all denominations. We may be travelling by different routes but we are travelling in the same direction and towards the same goal, and I believe that the nearer we approach our destination so will our roads converge.

Yours sincerely,

W. G. SPEIGHT.

Braunston Vicarage,
Oakham.

(Although the original correspondence remains closed, we should like to make it clear that the Rev. Canon W. G. Speight did not state or imply that the Catholic Church had ever accepted the doctrine of "The end justifies the means," a statement attributed to him by Mr. S. Brooks. This doctrine was quoted by an earlier correspondent who did not attribute it to anyone in particular.—ED.)

DEAR EDITOR,

I am pleased to note that Mr. Prideaux's criticism has opened the pages of the *REVIEW* to constructive thought on religion as such.

On the occasion of my rare visits to Ovingdean I have very often come into contact with St. Dunstaners of deep philosophical and spiritual thought, with whom it is a pleasure to converse, but there are only a very few who have taken the opportunity to study the Scriptures. I have also found in normal life that an astounding number of persons who claim to be deeply religious (which is different from deep philosophical search for spiritual truth) had, despite their assurances and regular conventional church and chapel attendance, only the vaguest ideas concerning the Gospels, and knew nothing at all from their own study of either the Old Testament, the Epistles and Revelations or the Apocryphas.

With the calming of the nations comes the tranquillity also of the individual human spirit, and men will realize that in literal truth, Christ is the Saviour, not only of the individuals of two thousand years ago, but of the entire world of man to-day. Men will turn and read their Scriptures, finding joy in the fact that it can solve the great problems of to-day, healing all the hands of

administration of nations, opening the blind spiritual eyes and allowing the blessings of science to be concentrated upon the healing of individuals instead of that new threat of human annihilation. What a wonderful thing if the men of St. Dunstan's can give a new idea to a stricken world!

I am not preaching, but passing on a thought that was given to me, and the power of thought is the greatest power on earth or beyond it.

Faithfully yours,

Castle Cary.

A. J. RADFORD.

(We regret that it was not possible to print Mr. Radford's letter in full. Letters on this or any other subject should not exceed three hundred and fifty words.—ED.)

DEAR EDITOR,

I am in complete agreement with the Rev. Andrew Nugee on the re-assessment of pensions. I have held this view ever since 1917, when I entered St. Mark's and was placed in a bed alongside a Lancashire lad who was doubly handicapped compared with me. Whereas I only had both eyes excised, this lad, besides the loss of sight, had one hand off and the other was crippled and useless. He could not feed himself, he could not wipe his nose. We were both 100% pensioners and we both went to St. Dunstan's. A has lost his sight. B has lost his sight and one arm. C has lost his sight and both arms. D has lost his sight, both arms and one leg. E has lost his sight and has a spine injury causing loss of power below the injury. I doubt if anyone could assess adequately C, D and E for their suffering, loss of power, loss of pleasure, and loss of the joy of living, but a fair assessment could coat their bitter pill and perhaps make life more tolerable. I expect the official answer would be in the words of Sir Arthur Pearson in 1917, when Harry Nelson and I pointed out to him a discrepancy in pensions applying to St. Dunstaners. Sir Arthur said: "Yes, boys, I see your point, but the Ministry have to make rules and they have to work to those rules, and it is one of their rules that this discrepancy occurs. They could not adjust this pension just to apply to St. Dunstaners, because they would have to adjust it to all other pensions in Britain." We asked "Why not?" Sir Arthur replied "Because I do not think the country could stand it." I may point out, however, that this malad-

justment was adjusted some twenty years later, and that the country did stand it.

Perhaps it is a little late for we fellows of the 1914 vintage to drag out this mal-assessment question at this juncture, but it may give the 1939 boys food for thought. I still maintain that *multiple injuries should receive multiple pensions.*

Yours sincerely,

B. A. HAMILTON.

Thetford.

DEAR EDITOR,

I had Jim Shaw's leading article read to me to-day and for once I comment on what could be regarded as a simple statement of facts.

I too think Jim's young friend from St. Helen's has achieved something worth while, not only for himself but may be for others. On the other hand, I feel a little mention of the great patience of the people who realised when he was a child that he could develop this gift is needed.

I shall never forget that day in 1946 when, at Belmont, Ovingdean, I met Dr. Helen Keller and her companion, Polly Thompson. Zofia, a Polish girl, came into the lounge and spoke Saint Joan's speech, beautifully and faultlessly. At precisely the right moment, and as though she was fully sighted, able to hear perfectly and also able to speak clearly, I realised that not only had I followed Zofia along every word, every pronunciation, but this wonderful American woman, blind, deaf and nearly dumb, not only had listened too, but she expressed her gratitude in a really remarkable way.

To me it was one of the highlights of the many experiences I have had in a not so short life.

I asked how Helen Keller had managed to know just what Zofia was saying, how she was saying it—and I learned that she, too, used her sensitive touch on Zofia's throat.

But here too I feel that in addition to the courage of Helen Keller, we all have to think of the sighted person who, in the very beginning of the story, realised her potentialities and, with great patience and understanding, had helped her student to learn the way to "converse with others."

Yours sincerely,

MAUREEN LEES.

Birkenhead.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was very interested, as no doubt were many of your readers, to read in the May issue of the remarkable reading by touch which was there described. I have also been privileged to see Miss Jameson at work with the Optophone, and I have been very interested in her results.

I have, however, been shown within the last week yet another possible method of reading. During a visit to a research establishment, I saw some work which, although in the early stages, looked very hopeful. It, too, reads from the printed work in the same way as the Optophone, and the method of conveying the print into something we can "observe" is much the same.

In this new idea, however, the actual letters are forced up through a metal screen, and can be enlarged to any size the reader may wish. All he then has to do is to carry out much the same reading technique as a reader of "Moon" has to do.

This then has all the advantages of the Optophone without the disadvantage of having to learn the "music."

I am afraid that the difficulty which meets both methods is the expense of development and the likelihood that this expense will not be recovered by the sale of the instrument. What is really needed is some commercial use for these ideas so that the sale would be large enough to recover the cost of development and production.

Yours sincerely,

J. A. ORIEL.

Banbury, Oxon.

DEAR EDITOR,

I see from the REVIEW that one man had an article about his watch, and he said he thought it was a record, from 1943. I think my watch can beat that. It is still going and I don't remember the year I had it but it was in Mr. Swain's early days, and it only wants cleaning now. It has been a faithful friend to me.

Yours sincerely,

C. CHAPMAN.

Scaldwell, Northampton.

★ ★ ★

It has only just come to the notice of Headquarters that H. Trafford, of Moss, near Wrexham, who came to us in January, 1952, was awarded the Military Medal for rescuing wounded men under fire at Helen-court Wood, Belgium, in July, 1917.

British Legion Annual Conference

The Annual Conference of the British Legion was held at the Royal Albert Hall, London, during Whitsun week-end.

From the number of resolutions dealt with, we take the following from newspaper reports which have reached us.

"The Conference unanimously passed a resolution tabled in the name of one hundred branches, reaffirming their determination to support the Legion demand for an increase in the basic rate of disability pension to 90s. a week for disabled ex-servicemen and a corresponding increase for widows.

"A motion calling for a 100% increase in pensions for war widows under 40 and a 50% increase for those over 40 was overwhelmingly rejected by the conference.

"A resolution which was also rejected called for special financial recognition to be sought from the Ministry of Pensions for limbless and other seriously disabled pensioners of the 1914-1918 war.

"The Conference rejected by a large majority a resolution which disapproved 'the action of M.P.s in voting themselves an increase of £500 a year in salary while the Legion's claims on behalf of disabled ex-servicemen and war widows continued to be ignored.'

"Sir Ian Fraser promised to seek an authoritative statement of what the Government proposed to do about pensions by putting down a question in the House.

"A resolution requesting the Minister of Pensions to accord facilities for the pensioner appearing before a medical board to be accompanied, if he wished, by a representative of the British Legion, was carried.

"The suggestion was made that the Ministry should give much more sympathetic consideration to the claims of widows whose husbands had died from illness closely associated with disabilities for which they had received pensions. A motion that the Ministry should apply more generous interpretation to the warrant under which such pensions were awarded was carried unanimously."

★ ★ ★

Thomas Partington, a founder and life member of Radcliffe British Legion Branch, has now been admitted to life membership of the British Legion itself.

Reunions

There have been only two Reunions during the past month. The first, at Ipswich, on May 21st, was the first East Anglian meeting to be held there for eighteen years, Colchester and Norwich being chosen in previous years. Sir Ian Fraser, who was accompanied by Lady Fraser, presided, and a guest of honour was Captain G. G. Vinnicombe, chairman of the Suffolk British Legion and a member of the National Executive Council.

Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., our President, and Lady Pearson were the guests of honour at the Canterbury Reunion on May 27th.

Birmingham Sports Club

Sports at Salford Park, May 16th

70 yds. Running	1. Kibbler	9.5 sec.
	2. Faulkner	10.0 sec.
	3. Bilcliff	10.3 sec.
Cricket Ball	1. Kibbler	60 yds.
	2. Worthington	53 yds.
	3. Bilcliff	40 yds.
Shot Putt	1. Kibbler	31 ft. 7 in.
	2. Faulkner	26 ft. 5 in.
	3. Southall	25 ft. 2 in.
Long Jump	1. Faulkner	6 ft. 1 in.
	2. Kibbler	5ft. 11 in.
	3. Southall	5 ft. 10 in.
Four Laps Walk	1. Worthington (90 sec.)	10 min. 34 sec.
	2. Kibbler (15 sec.)	10 min. 35 sec.
	3. Bilcliff (15 sec.)	10 min. 36 sec.
Fastest Time: Faulkner (scr.),		10 min. 37 sec.

★ ★ ★

Two coaches lent to us by the Alexander Musical Society took us to Stratford-on-Avon on June 13th. About seventy sat down to tea.

It would have been an even greater success if the weather had been kind, but it poured in torrents all day. The river trip had to be cancelled, since the river was so swollen that the boats could not get under the bridges.

Fortunately we were to go to the British Legion for tea, and we spent a most happy afternoon and evening there. Some of the older St. Dunstaners were able to renew acquaintance with Miss Chadwick, who was concerned with the Stratford Camps in the old days.

Grandfathers

W. J. Harris, Fareham; G. H. Thomas, Birmingham (Dorothy had a little girl in Benghazi, North Africa); T. Noon, Manchester; W. D. Alexander, Dalbeattie.

My Trip

When my two 20-year policies became due, we decided to take a trip to Australia and visit Mrs. Gover's sister in Sydney, whom we had not seen for over 32 years. Also to have a week in Melbourne and visit some St. Dunstan's friends we had not seen for some 37 years, and to carry on to New Zealand to visit Miss Morrah.

We left Tilbury on the *Strathedon* on December 3rd, 1953, passing Gibraltar and then along the North Coast of Africa, daily seeing all those places we knew so well during the fighting in North Africa; then Libya, Tobruk, Port Said, and down the Suez to Aden. Then Bombay, Colombo, Fremantle, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. Of course, we had the usual six or eight hours at each of these, but we left our ship at Melbourne for six days, and went to our hotel, which had been booked by Bob Archer who, as most of you know, is Secretary of the Victoria Blinded Soldiers' Association. Mrs. Archer came with Bob in the car and took us all round Melbourne, and we finished at Tom Corboy's house. The next day we visited A. Gibson and also W. Cook, who has not long arrived from England and is building his own house. The next day we were invited by Mrs. McConnell to lunch—and what a party! Mac had asked Joe Lynch along, as well as two other friends, to meet us. The Victoria Blinded Returned Soldiers' Bowls Club of Melbourne visits other clubs once or even twice a week for the afternoon, and sometimes journeys of 60 or even 80 miles are made *up* country by train or coach for these visits. My wife and I were invited to one of these events and we were amazed at their skill.

These were indeed six hectic days and on the Friday we caught the *Himalaya* for Sydney. Bob and Tom and their ladies came to see us off and what a memory! It was grand to see all our plans of some twelve months ago gradually coming true.

Now we are at Sydney and we look over the side hoping to recognise someone we have not seen for 32 years. At last, "There she is," from my wife, with a catch in her voice, for there was Jessie. What excitement! Neither Eva nor Jess knew quite where to start.

Although we docked at 8 a.m., it wasn't until after 10 o'clock that we were through the Customs for there had been some 1,200

passengers on board the *Himalaya*. We went by taxi to Sans Souci, where Jess lives. The first two days we went to Sydney to open my account with the Bank, and to arrange my trip to Canberra. We were only home from this trip two days when we set out again for Katoomba, which is in the Blue Mountains. After this we had another week with Jess. We were not idle, but visited the glorious bays that are around Sydney—Manly Bay, Crunalla Bay, and Bondi Beach are particularly fine. The waves come in some 30 feet and higher, and are dangerous to the weak swimmer or the venturesome surf rider. Each beach has its own body of Life Savers, and these men do a wonderful job. When they go out on a rough sea to save lives, they are all tied together and the leader is out in front and always holds the number one position. They save thousands of lives yearly.

During one of these visits to Sydney I made an appointment to see Mr. E. Turnbull, the Managing Director of Hoyts Theatres. This body of people and their friends sent St. Dunstan's some thousands of parcels during the war years, and my wife and I particularly went to thank Mr. Turnbull for ourselves and for all our St. Dunstan's friends.

Before leaving Sydney we had one more trip. This was by coach along the Great Pacific Highway to Brisbane, which took three days. We came back from Brisbane by rail. We eventually left Sydney for Wellington, New Zealand, on February 18th, and all the family came to see us off.

Our trip round the North Island had already been fixed for us by the Australian and New Zealand Bank in Sydney, and a perfect job they made of it. On landing at Wellington we were met by an official of the Government Tourist Department, who gave us a large bunch of tickets and a book of words, and a welcome to New Zealand. There were taxi tickets, hotel tickets, coach tickets, and half-day tour tickets—13 days round North Island, and we were met everywhere by taxi like clockwork and delivered to the hotel. We went to the famous Glow-worm cave and then on to Rotarua where there are all the hot springs; they are just amazing, some of them spurt up into the air some 40 or 50 feet, and some of them are just hot mud and all different colours. From there we went on to Auckland, where we were due to stay six days—six days because I wanted to spend

some time with Miss Morrah, who had helped us so much for some 20 odd years, and particularly with our Bridge Club from 1939 until she returned to New Zealand in 1946. We also went to lunch with Miss Morrah's nieces. I also went to see Donald McPhee, who was trained as a physio-therapist in 1918, and has been to England twice for a visit. I also had a very pleasant afternoon and evening with Chalky White. Chalky was trained as a Physio and we knew him well because he was a very keen Bridge enthusiast and was a member of our London Club. Good luck, Chalky, and come with your good lady to see us when you come over. Another St. Dunstaner I met in Auckland was Jim May, who was blinded in this war and all the blind training he has had has been local. Jim is now holding down very successfully the job of assistant director to the civilian blind movement in Auckland.

We went back to Wellington by land-liner and spent the last few days before going on board in Oriental Bay. We boarded the *Rangitata* on March 18th for Southampton, and we had a wonderful trip home, back through the Panama. The Sports Chairman asked me to arrange some Bridge for the ship, so with the help of Mrs. Gover and one other passenger, I accordingly arranged a Bridge Drive each Wednesday. We also had a duplicate contest with four teams of 4. This my team managed to win, together with the team of 8 match, England v. New Zealand over 32 boards.

Then when we arrived at Southampton we had the telegram from the St. Dunstan's Bridge Club—WELCOME HOME—and also one other letter from Leigh, telling us that our cat was waiting for us and very well. You just cannot realise what a thrill it is to get a telegram, letter, or postcard when travelling like this. We had four telegrams and two letters and three boxes of flowers when leaving Tilbury on December 3rd, and when getting to Fremantle we had two letters. Best of all there was a telegram from my sister-in-law—Good luck and good health and WELCOME to Australia. So if you know anyone travelling, drop them a line at the port of call where they would least expect a line.

Well, now home, and to work, and to put things back in their proper order.

H. GOVER

★ ★ ★

A. Reagen, of Hastings, and his wife have won a bronze medal for Old Tyme Dancing.

From All Quarters

Bertie Barnes, O.B.E., of Cheltenham, has been re-elected to the Parochial Church Council of the Parish Church. This year the number of Councillors has been reduced from forty to twenty-five, so that his election was particularly noteworthy.

★ ★ ★

H. Pollitt, of Farnworth, writes: "I went with Mrs. Pollitt to a Social last Thursday, and we had a very enjoyable evening. David Bee, Ernie Earnshaw and Jim Bleakey were there. They presented the Fletcher Cup to the winning darts team."

★ ★ ★

A. E. Hicks, of Palmers Green, has received from his firm, the North Metropolitan Power Company, a Certificate of Service on completion of twenty years with the company, together with a gold watch.

★ ★ ★

S. Purvis, of Seghill, has come away from an Exhibition again this year with all the first prizes for his products. He excels at leek-growing.

Tribute from the Regiment

Arising out of the visit of two officers, Major Norman Charrington and Major Arthur Duveen, to South Africa recently, and their meeting with Jim Ellis there, an article appeared in the Spring number of the 10th Royal Hussar's Gazette. It was headed, "Mr. James E. Ellis," and after describing Jim's military service and St. Dunstan's training, it goes on:—

"Major Norman Charrington and Major Arthur Duveen, both old 10th Hussars, have recently visited Jim Ellis in Cape Town. They say he is quite an amazing chap, extremely capable and full of enthusiasm. In spite of his handicaps, he types most of his correspondence himself, almost faultlessly, and he is looked upon in South Africa as one of the real driving forces behind the St. Dunstan's movement . . ."

"Many will remember Jim Ellis in the Regiment as a very charming personality. His example of triumph over misfortune is something of which all 10th Hussars can be justly proud. When one thinks of what can be overcome by sheer bravery and will power, it makes one ashamed to have ever complained about the trivial annoyances.

"We all wish him continued success in his valuable work and family life."

Talking Book Library May's Mite

This month's quota of releases is a small, mixed bag of three books. The first in the list is generally entertaining, whereas the other two are rather for those with special tastes.

"My Cousin, Rachel," by Daphne du Maurier, reader Lionel Marson, tells a romantic story of a young, wealthy Cornishman loving and doubting his cousin, ten years his senior. Death in dubious circumstances seems to follow cousin Rachel around, and in an atmosphere of infatuation, extravagance and intrigue, it is difficult to make out any villain or hero. Somebody ought to hang, but even that is highly uncertain. Pleasant reading attached to a most admirable poser.

"Abraham Lincoln," by Herbert Agar, reader Arthur Bush, occupies, if I remember rightly, five records and therefore must needs be a very potted version of one of the greatest of United States Presidents. In spite of, or because of that fact one can read all the book with great interest.

"The Pilgrim's Progress," by John Bunyan, reader Franklin Engelmann, is a truly remarkable outpouring from one who might now be termed a "dreamy gaol-bird." This is a beautiful recording and though some of the discourse between the pilgrims is tediously stilted, the over-all impression is that here is quite a pleasant book—if you like that sort of thing!

"NELSON."

"My Cousin Rachel," *Cat. No. 883.*

"Abraham Lincoln," *Cat. No. 884.*

"The Pilgrim's Progress," *Cat. No. 8.* (A new English recording, the previous American record having been withdrawn).

It Was Worth It

For some years now I have attended the Burma Reunion, having for a spell been a very insignificant part of the old 14th Army. My particular Corps being usually an attached troop, I thus made many contacts, but none of them really strong ones, with the exception of just one or two chaps who have since those days passed into other parts of the country, or even passed into dimmer oblivion.

Thus I had considered, is it worth while going to the Reunion in the faint hope that someone would clap me on the shoulder and say, "Aren't you old Lofty?" Now comes the part which has made it worth while.

Recently I met a "new boy" at Ovingdean, but recently entered on our family register, an old Burma bloke, and now come to us from Kenya, where he was serving with the K.A.R.'S.

Now "D's" roots were definitely in our northern Scottish areas, but all his more intimate branches were in East Africa, so he was more or less a bit on his own over here. So when I received my ticket for the Burma "do" I thought of him down at Ovingdean and suggested to H.Q. that maybe they did not know he was of those days and maybe he would like the opportunity to attend the Royal Albert Hall.

June 4th found him sitting in patience whilst his escort was finding the bar applicable to African Troops and later, after the speeches, we three adjourned there to take a drop of something to keep the cold out.

Now for a blinded man to find somebody in a crowd of some thousands, all milling around, or more or less like an ant hill in the throes of an evacuation, isn't easy. But lo! "D," having taken a swig of his refreshments, said clearly and distinctly, "Anyone here from the 1st Gold Coast Regiment?" It happened. "Yes, I am."

It had come off. From that particular Regiment, there were three men present, and they had all been standing within six feet of each other. The tongues wagged Do you remember old so and so? Were you at such and such? Remember the old what's a name? It was grand.

There is a sequel, too. In a matter of three weeks, ere this appears in print, there is an Old Brigade Dinner and general get-together in London, and "D" is to go to that and will meet many an old friend.

Yes, it was well worth while. Now I look forward to next year, for who knows, I may stand close to someone who will say "Remember that night?" Remember old so and so? If one may meet two men amongst as many thousands, then surely I stand a chance of meeting some of my old crowd of sixty or so.

J. A. MUDGE.

★ ★ ★

Charles E. Temperton, of Hull, is enthusiastic about the new gas cigarette lighters. He says, "I think they are just the thing for us chaps, no messing about with wicks, no fumes and a constant supply of gas, that is, of course, until you need a refill. Mine lasted a month."

Manchester Club Notes

On Friday, May 28th, the members of the Club joined with wives and escorts in a Whist Drive which preceded the distribution of prizes to winners in the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Competition.

After the long concentration on the competition games, the joint session with the ladies provided most enjoyable relaxation.

The winners and runners-up in each section were:—

Dominoes: S. Heys and W. Bentley.

Darts—

S.S.: W. McCarthy and W. Bramley.

T.B.: S. Heys and A. Clarke.

Cribbage: W. Bentley and J. Shaw.

Whist: W. Bentley and W. Bramley.

The ladies themselves had been engaged in their own games over the past months—and the winners took their applause immediately following the awards made to the men.

The next meeting of the Club, at Red Cross House, Broad Street, Pendelton, will be on *Friday, 25th June*, and thereafter on the second and fourth Fridays in each month, at 6.30 p.m.

There is a Darts match at the Old Veterans' Society, Duke Street, Bolton, in the evening of August 20th, kindly arranged by Mr. Jim Blakeley.

Our annual outing by coach will be to Blackpool on September 4th.

We are also anticipating our visit to Pleasington, where the Darts Team at the Railway Inn, by arrangement of Mr. Bob Britton, and the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Hindle, always provide a pleasant and enjoyable afternoon and evening.

The games in connection with the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Competitions will commence on the 25th June, and we do hope that all St. Dunstaners will come forward when they possibly can to join in the games.

At the Annual Meeting, held on May 28th, Mr. J. Shaw was re-elected Chairman, and Mr. W. McCarthy, Vice-Chairman of the Club. Mrs. Dunphy is Hon. Secretary and Miss Hill as Hon. Treasurer will continue their valuable services to the Club and our thanks are expressed to these ladies, also to Mrs. Lang, for her regular attendance at the Club, and for the valuable help she always gives. To the members' wives and escorts we also tender our sincere thanks for all the assistance so willingly given during the past twelve months. J. SHAW.

Rise and Shine

On my last visit to Ovingdean I found I was to be accommodated amongst the exalted ones of the Third Floor. Whether this sudden social elevation was bestowed upon me because of my recent association with some of the physiotherapists, or whether it was merely an oversight in administration I shall never know. At any rate, I was actually occupying a room in the exclusive grandeur of Dorm. 6. I looked forward eagerly to the many little chats I would enjoy in the washplace during the morning and evening ablutions. My companions, of course, would surely be all veterans of the First War, or even one or two members of the Physio Spat Brigade.

A week had passed by and I still had no reason to believe that any of the other rooms were occupied. Each night I would retire at 11 p.m. or thereabouts, but my footsteps would echo hollowly throughout the deserted corridor as I went to my lonely room. In the morning, too, when I shaved and washed, the only noise to comfort me was the scrape of my blade and the sudden swoosh of the automatic latrine douche. Granted, I never left my bed till 8.30 a.m., but on two successive mornings I misread my watch and staggered along to the bathroom as early as 7.45 a.m., but the same loneliness greeted me.

I made careful enquiries as to the number of men sleeping on the Third Floor, and was mystified to find that the dormitory was right up to strength.

Why was it, then, that at 8.30 in the morning there was so much activity on the second floor and so little on the third. I decided to solve the mystery. Fact No. 1 was that the phantom occupants of Dorm. 6 were mostly Mons and Marne Merchants; fact No. 2, the late-washers of Dorms. 3 and 4 were mostly of World War 2 vintage. All I had to do was make something of this comparison between the two generations of warriors. It was here that the many yarn-swapping sessions I had enjoyed in the lounge paid off a dividend. Some of these nostalgic discussions had been rather more one-sided than I had cared for, but still, out of the 355 different accounts of the first war, I had learned a lot. Each piece of marathon reminiscence had varied in fervour and quality of description. I had been transported by power of imagination to every conceivable battlefield in

Flanders. I fought desperately with the bayonet, jumped in and out of huge shell holes, ate Maconochies and Plum and Apple till I was sick; and even had several riotous nights out with the fabulous lady from Armentieres. I was able to dip into this vast store of anecdotes to help solve this problem. Quite simple really, every man-jack who went to France between 1914—18 came back to Blighty with a habit he has never been able to break. I mean, of course, this little peculiarity of getting out of bed, washing, shaving and polishing buttons and boots furiously before the hour of 6 a.m.

It was a habit born of urgent necessity, for I have it on mass authority that "Jerry" had a nasty trick of "dropping in" unexpectedly at any hour of the day (presumably never at night), so it was soon realised that the only way to cope with this situation was to sound Reveille an hour before "Jerry" sounded his. ("Jerry" was never more than 20 yards away, you see). This early rising meant that everybody would be very tired at the end of the day, so they all went to bed rather early. That explains why I never saw a living soul when I returned to my room each night.

In "Our War" of course, things were different. We had radar and searchlights. There was never any need for all this pre-dawn alertness. Hence, we were allowed the indulgence of lying in our beds till a much more civilised hour—say 8.30 a.m. The habit is in evidence still, every morning in Dorms. 3 and 4.

GEORGE ELLIS.

"Love is Not Blind"

Under this title, Russell Criddle, a young American, who was accidentally blinded as a child, has written a book dealing with his struggle for what he calls "emotional equality."

His father wants to shield and control his life. His mother stands by her son in his fight for independence. His love affairs are unhappy but eventually he marries, soon after an operation has given him some sight. Mr. Criddle's book will help the more discerning public in its attitude to blind people.

The book is published by Hutchinson at 12s. 6d.

Forty-six Years Married

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. Raine, of Maldon, whose anniversary was on June 2nd.

Births

POINTON.—On May 8th, to the wife of A. C. Pointon, of Bexhill-on-Sea, a son—Michael John.

WATERWORTH.—On May 20th, to the wife of G. Waterworth, of Coventry, a son—John.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

AP RHYS.—To T. Ap Rhys, of Bangor, whose mother, who lived with him, has died at the age of 93.

MCDONOUGH.—To J. F. McDonough, of Clifden, County Galway, and Mrs. McDonough, whose four-year-old daughter, Kathleen, has died in hospital from meningitis.

Mr. T. Claxton

St. Dunstaners who have met him at Ovingdean will hear with great regret of the sudden death a short time ago of Mr. T. Claxton. Mr. Claxton was the most kindly of escorts and the staunchest of friends, and his passing has been deeply felt by St. Dunstaners and staff alike.

Young St. Dunstaners

Just as Sylvia Lawson arrived at her new school, the building was struck by lightning, but fortunately no damage was done.

Linda Atkins (Hemel Hempstead) won first prize in a talent competition at a "Busmen's Party." She sang a solo.

June Daborn (Bexley Heath) has passed the Primary examination in ballet dancing and was highly commended.

Ian Marsden (Alderholt) was top individual scorer in Dorset Rifle League, Division 6. His team finished second.

Jane Sutton (Crewe) gained 89 marks out of a possible 100 in her music examination.

Ian Wooldridge, Carlisle, is a member of the Carlisle Boys' Band, chosen as the Premier Boys' Band of the Salvation Army at the Easter contest in London.

Marriages

Margaret Watts, Rock Ferry, on May 29th, to Thomas Joseph Wright.

Peter Law, Pensax-Stockton, on May 22nd, to Miss Patricia Barker.

Susan Hamilton, Thetford, on May 1st, to Geoffrey Harrington Dash. They have gone to live in Barcelona.

Sybil Josephine Floyd, Teignmouth, on June 7th, to Alan Donald Wheeler.

Thomas William Hollinrake, Haslingden, on May 15th, to Miss Elizabeth Mary Owens.

"In Memory"

Lance Corporal Herbert Samuel Eames, *7th Bedfordshire Regt.*

It is with deep regret that we record the death, on June 4th, of H. S. Eames, of Hurst, Reading. He was in his 66th year.

He came to St. Dunstan's upon his discharge from the Army in November, 1916. He trained as a Library Braille Reader and teacher of Braille and he continued with this work for several years. He also did a little netting. He had, however, been in failing health for some years and his condition became serious a few months ago.

He leaves a widow to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Private John Owens, *1st Highland Light Infantry*

With deep regret we record the death of J. Owens, of Hurlford, Ayrshire, who died suddenly on May 20th, at the age of 69.

Enlisting in 1914, he was discharged from the Army a year later, having received wounds at Neuve Chapelle in May, 1915, which deprived him of his sight and left his health seriously affected.

He trained in mat-making and boot-repairing and carried on for some years at his crafts.

During the last year or so he has been more or less confined to his house, and his health latterly had been deteriorating. His death, nevertheless, was very sudden and unexpected after only a few weeks' illness.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow and son.

Sapper Ernest Barber, *17th Field Coy., Royal Engineers*

We record with deep regret the death of E. Barber, of York. He was a St. Dunstaner of the Second World War and was 36.

He enlisted in 1939 and was discharged in October, 1945, having been severely wounded as the result of a mine explosion in Italy. In addition to his blindness, he suffered severe facial wounds and the loss of his right leg below the knee. He came to us in 1950 and, after some training, resumed work at Messrs. Rowntree's, where he had been employed before the war. He was admitted to hospital in May for an emergency appendicitis operation. He was discharged a week later but died suddenly on May 25th.

To Mrs. Barber and her two little girls our deep sympathy is offered.

William John Patter, *Munition Factory*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. J. Patter, of Gosport. He was nearly 61.

Blinded as a munition worker during the First World War, he came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1917, and trained in netting and wool rugs. He continued with this work for some years and then took a shop. Ill-health, however, forced him to give this up in 1954. He died on May 21st.

He leaves a widow and grown-up married daughter, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Gunner Gilbert Johnson Webster, *Royal Field Artillery*

With deep regret we have to record the death of G. J. Webster, of Shipley. He died in hospital on May 9th after a very long period of suffering. He was 57.

His service began in the early part of 1915, and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1918. Trained originally as a poultry farmer, he later became a telephonist and gave many years of service in the North of England. He married, for the second time, Miss Gornall, who was at the time Under Matron at the Blackpool Home. During the past few years he had spent much time in and out of hospital.

Cremation took place at Lidgetts Green and Mr. Ernest Russell, a St. Dunstaner, attended the funeral. The coffin was covered with a Union Jack and other members of the British Legion formed a guard of honour.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Webster, and to the children of the previous marriage.

Private William George Cox, *28th Royal West Surrey Regt.*

We record with deep regret the death of W. G. Cox, of Woodstock, Oxford, at the age of 75.

He came to St. Dunstan's in August, 1918, a few months after his discharge from the Army. He trained in mat-making and continued with this until his admission to hospital, where he died on June 10th.

He leaves a widow and grown-up daughter by a previous marriage, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Lance Corporal Reginald Percy Coles, *21st County of London Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of R. P. Coles, until recently of Redhill.

Coming to St. Dunstan's in June, 1924, he trained as a telephonist and in 1928 took up a post with the Crusader Insurance Company, and he held this until his enforced retirement owing to illness in December, 1952. His never-failing cheerfulness and courtesy made him one of the most popular and respected members of the staff.

"Reg" Coles was a founder member of the Bridge Club and was for some years its secretary. When his health broke down it was his great regret that he could no longer enjoy the companionship of its members, but telephone conversations with Drummer and his other friends kept him always in touch. Many will remember his article in the January REVIEW, when he paid moving tribute to his old friends and to St. Dunstan's.

He had stayed at Ovingdean while a house was being prepared for him at Hove and Mrs. Coles was actually on her way to Ovingdean to take him home.

Cremation was at Brighton, and many friends from his office and from St. Dunstan's were present. They included Messrs. Downs (with Jack Armstrong), Kirkbright, King, Ingrey, Manning, Rhodes, Van Niekerk and Winter.

To Mrs. Coles and Dennis our deep sympathy is extended.

W. A. Helm, *South African Railway Regiment*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of W. A. Helm, of Cape Town. He was a St. Dunstaner of the First World War and came to us in 1930. He trained in basket-making in this country and carried on with his craft for a great number of years, giving valuable advice to other basket-makers in South Africa.

He leaves a widow and two children to whom our deep sympathy goes.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 417—VOLUME XXXVIII

JULY, 1954

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
{FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

IN a letter from Mr. George Fallowfield which appears on another page of this REVIEW, he says "Whilst I am writing may I speak on another subject. This is that the wireless, talking films, etc., have led to people reading less and therefore to becoming bad spellers. . . . Many of our men do not read Braille, so never read how names are properly spelt."

My deaf-blind friend has, I think, made an interesting point and put his finger on one of our lesser handicaps. The other day I read in some Braille notes that had been prepared for me the word "Bonas," which illustrates how the sound of the word can guide a blind person to a wrong conclusion as to its spelling. I sometimes get an idea into my head about the spelling of a word or name, and because I have never written it myself or read it in Braille but only heard it, I find that after many years the idea becomes so firmly rooted that I could almost swear to it; and then suddenly I discover to my great surprise that I am wrong.

Even regular reading of Braille does not wholly overcome the difficulty, because most of us who read at all fluently feel only the outline of the word and do not distinguish every letter. I sometimes read a novel and at the end have not the slightest idea what was the name of the hero or the detective because I have never, in fact, read it. I distinguish it as being about an inch long and starting with an H, and the context identifies the individual.

The English language is notoriously difficult to spell because the spelling is often not related in any way to the sound, or perhaps there are many ways of spelling the same sound, or alternatively, many ways of pronouncing the same series of letters. For example, No, Know, Hoe, Sew, Dough, Oh, Beau, or Cough, Plough, Though, Through, Rough, and I am sure readers will think of many similar examples.

While on the subject of minor handicaps, writing with a pen or pencil is another. I know some blind people whose handwriting is good after many years, but it is a great effort to maintain it. Fortunately there is no need for us to do so, because the typewriter is so much more effective and accurate. The trouble in writing is that you tend to write the letters one upon the other because you forget to move your hand forward, or in order to avoid that difficulty you move your hand forward so fast that the letters are ill-formed and wide. The other day I had to sign a hundred or more documents, and this led to my taking a lot of trouble to practise my signature and improve its clarity. I am told this was effective but I expect it will now fall away again.

One consolation is that many sighted people sign their name quite unintelligibly and so far my banker, at any rate, has not rejected one of my signatures.

IAN FRASER.

Talking about St. Dunstaners . .

L. Davies, of Purley, was invited to act as physiotherapist to the women competitors at Wimbledon this year. The invitation came from the All-England Lawn Tennis Club.

★ ★ ★

E. Tomlin, of Barking, who is a new St. Dunstaner of World War I, has bred pigeons for many years and is still a keen—and prize-winning—fancier. One bird which has just won a second prize flew 434 miles back to its home in ten hours.

★ ★ ★

Randall Shepherd, of Whitchurch Hill, near Reading, who was awarded an Agricultural Nuffield Fellowship which took him and his wife to the United States for six months, has now returned. He has made contacts and has brought back knowledge of new techniques which will be of great value to him. The reports include a number of recorded discs made by a blinded American sergeant of the U.S. Army, and himself a poultry farmer.

★ ★ ★

Tom Daborn, of Bexley Heath, has won, against sighted competitors, a cup for the heaviest catch in deep sea fishing. It was 33 pounds of bream.

★ ★ ★

J. McDonough, of Clifden, quite by chance recently met the son of our late St. Dunstaner, R. Parsons, of Dublin. He is a taxi driver and had driven a fare from Dublin to Clifden and had noticed the badge.

★ ★ ★

J. A. Garbutt, of Stockton-on-Tees, although officially retired now, is still an active lay preacher and, incidentally, is still asked to give advice on welfare matters to his old firm.

★ ★ ★

Gerry Brereton hopes to compete in the World Golf Championship for the Blind, to be played in Toronto this month. He is the first British player to be invited.

★ ★ ★

At the 14th Public Meeting of South Norwood St. Dunstan's Group, St. Dunstaners E. R. Ettridge and Michael Oliver were on the platform, with Miss Mary Jameson (organiser), Lady Buckmaster, the

Bishop of Croydon, and Mr. Ernest Stanford, St. Dunstan's Appeals Organiser.

The first-named gave an interesting talk on "The Training of a War-blinded Physiotherapist," and Michael brought along a dozen home produced eggs and presented them to the first member of the audience to answer the question, "Where is St. Dunstan's Training Centre?"

★ ★ ★

Maureen Lees will be demonstrating weaving at the Cheshire Guild stand at Heswall Horse Show on Bank Holiday Monday. She hopes St. Dunstaners will make themselves known to her. By the way, has anyone an old spinning wheel, or spindles, they could loan her until some time in 1956?

The Long Arm of Coincidence

Like other St. Dunstaners I have certain anniversary days which refer to occurrences during the First World War. One of these dates is May 3rd—the attack on Oppy Wood by the Hull Brigade in 1917.

On May 3rd last I was in the lounge at Ovingdean and my thoughts were concentrated away back in 1917. I lost my best friend on that day. He was killed in the attack. Our friendship dated from school days. As I sat there, alone as I thought, a voice said to me "Wilf, you give me the impression of being miles away from here." It was another St. Dunstaner. After a short pause, I spoke of what I was thinking. I usually keep silent, but on this morning I felt that I wanted to talk to somebody of what I was thinking. I talked for quite a long time then suddenly he held my arm, and asked me the name of the friend I had lost that day. I told him, and spoke of his pre-war occupation, his mother, father and brother. The other St. Dunstaner turned to me and he said "Wilf, this is the most remarkable coincidence I have ever experienced. Your friend whom you lost in the attack on that day was engaged to my sister!" It was St. Dunstaner T. Cooper, of Bridlington. After a short silence, we exchanged personal reminiscences of our old friend, Bert Clubby, and of our Army days before his tragic death. Our talk was rather sad, maybe, but we both enjoyed recalling old times and old friends.

Hull.

WILFRED A. THOMPSON.

London Notes

Mr. Percy Ashton, who has been a member of the Club Committee and its Chairman for the past seven years, has tendered his resignation on personal grounds, and Mr. S. Webster has been elected Chairman in his place. The Club Committee desires to record their deep appreciation of the untiring and able service he has rendered during the last seven years, and are gratified to know that he will continue to assist the Committee and the Club in the future and retain his interest in it.

Indoor Section

The past month has been a quiet one for the Indoor Section. A match was played against the Enfield Working Men's Club, at Southbury Road, Enfield. This match was very poorly attended by our members, only seven turning out. This was a pity as a very enjoyable evening was spent. As we only had five for darts, we played against five of their members, and not surprisingly we were beaten, losing two games to one. Our domino experts, Messrs. Mudge and Hancock, were successful against the opposition. We hope for better attendance in the autumn, when I hope to fix up more matches, but it is important that Club members should turn up to support these evenings.

C. J. WALKER.

Outdoor Section

Five Mile Walk Regent's Park, 15th June, 1954 Match Between St. Dunstan's and Bowring A.C.

Order of Finish		Act. Time	H ^{cp} All.	H ^{cp} Time	H ^{cp} Pos.
1. Culver	B.A.C.	42:16	—	—	—
2. Gum	B.A.C.	43:53	—	—	—
3. A. Brown	St. D's	46:42	20	46:22	3
4. W. Miller	St. D's	48:17	Scr.	48:17	—
5. Howse	B.A.C.	48:54	—	—	—
6. L. Dennis	St. D's	49:59	4:20	45:39	2
7. Sykes	B.A.C.	50:19	—	—	—
8. C. Stafford	St. D's	50:32	5:00	45:32	1
9. T. Gaygan	St. D's	50:33	1:00	49:33	—
10. Bailey	B.A.C.	51:15	—	—	—
11. D. Fleisig	St. D's	51:27	4:00	47:27	—
12. A. Bradley	St. D's	51:49	4:40	47:09	—
13. S. Tutton	St. D's	52:00	3:45	48:15	—
14. Bailey, A.	B.A.C.	52:03	—	—	—
15. Croucher	B.A.C.	56:48	—	—	—

W.M.

Bridge

The only match in June took place on Saturday, the 19th, at 16 Berkeley Street, W.1, when twenty members of the Club,

playing in five teams of four, played their annual match against members of the London County Contract Bridge Association.

The winning team was Messrs. H. Gover, P. Nuyens, F. Winter and C. Thompson, with a plus score of 2,320. They each received a braille alarm clock, the remainder of the players each receiving a necktie.

After the prize distribution, Mr. H. Gover passed a hearty vote of thanks to our hosts.

W. BISHOP, *Capt.-Sec.*

Reunions

Three important Northern meetings began on June 17th at the Grand Hotel Manchester, when some sixty St. Dunstaners were welcomed by a member of St. Dunstan's Council, Mr. T. F. Lister, C.B.E. Smaller but equally successful was the Chester Reunion the following day, Mr. Lister again presiding. A special guest here was Mr. W. J. Bennett, who is County Secretary of the Chester British Legion.

Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., our President, was at Liverpool to preside over this very well-attended and successful meeting, Mr. W. H. Home, Chairman of the City of Liverpool British Legion Branch, and Mrs. Home, were other guests.

At Cheltenham on July 2nd, Sir Neville again presided, and St. Dunstaners were delighted that Lady Pearson was also present.

The Cardiff Reunion was on Saturday, July 3rd, and the Lord Mayor, Alderman George Ferrier, with the Lady Mayoress, welcomed us to the City. Mr. D. G. Hopewell, a Member of our Council, and Captain James Prince, General Secretary of the Cardiff and District British Legion, were also present.

The Nottingham and Birmingham meetings on July 8th and 10th brought to an end the main group of Reunions in this country. The Irish meetings take place in August, leaving only Exeter (September 2nd) and Brighton (September 8th).

The Guest of Honour at Nottingham was Mr. D. G. Hopewell. Some sixty St. Dunstaners were present on this occasion. Sir Ian and Lady Fraser attended the Birmingham Reunion which again was very successful and well attended.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I am most interested in the question of Braille. Some time ago I suggested that the "National News-Letter," and the "Braille Mail" would be much easier to read if they were issued in the style and shape of St. Dunstan's "Nuggets."

I strongly disagree with Mr. Somerset Maugham's comments on "condensation" of any books. If a book were wholly "top level" interesting all the time, it would soon become terribly boring, for the maxim is, without sorrow there can be no joy, without dull and rainy weather, the sun would not be fully appreciated, etc., etc. The question is, "Who is going to decide what should be cut and what should remain?" With regard to plays, when a play is staged and seen by the public for the first time, as far as the public is concerned they are seeing the play in its original form, and in any case any "cutting" that has been done has been, I presume, with the full knowledge and consent of the playwright.

I have never found travelling tedious, for travelling up and down to the City for thirty years I collected around me a most interesting fraternity, ranging from First Secretaries to Embassies, to charladies, and I am inclined to think the latter were more edifying; at any rate, I could talk their language.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK A. RHODES.

Ovingdean.

DEAR EDITOR,

Along with many others, no doubt, I read with much interest our Chairman's Note in the June REVIEW, in which he advocated the making of smaller Braille books. As a regular reader of "The Reader's Digest," I was particularly interested in the views expressed by so eminent an author as Mr. Somerset Maugham on the subject of condensing novels and other literature, classical or otherwise. So far as Braille reading is concerned, I think it is a practice that might well be adopted with the utmost benefit to the reader, so long as the cutting is done as expertly as in "The Reader's Digest," for example. In that magazine, it is sometimes difficult to realise that the

novel or the article that one has been reading is indeed a condensation of the original. No doubt we have equally skilful "cutters" in this country.

Mr. Fred Ripley's plea for Braille books of smaller overall dimensions and easier to manipulate is, of course, an essential requirement of any scheme for smaller Braille books, and just as important as the condensation of the reading matter already mentioned. But why confine it to special books for travellers? Personally, I prefer to do my home reading in an easy chair, the more comfortable the better, with the book spread across my knees, and I for one would welcome the smaller and more compact book along the lines suggested by Mr. Ripley. The cost of a spiral wire binding, with its loose-leaf effect, may be quite another matter and would probably require careful consideration. Glossing over that side of the question, it would certainly be a boon to be able to dispense with the present cumbersome, outsize books.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES S. HODGSON.

Fotheringay, Peterborough.

DEAR EDITOR,

Just a note to support Sir Ian's suggestion that braille literature be condensed. It's a long overdue issue and I trust that something will be done about it within the very near future.

Yours sincerely,
WALLY THOMAS.

Southampton.

DEAR EDITOR,

In the REVIEW last month, Sir Ian asked Braille readers to express their opinion on the "condensation" of good literature. I am afraid a good braille reader would not approve, because a person who really reads for pleasure isn't in a hurry to get to the end of a book any more than they are to get to the end of any other hobby.

Sir Ian suggested condensing novels—not newspapers. Do you think authors are going to give permission for their books to be put into braille if their best work is going to be cut to pieces? No craftsman or mechanic would allow such a thing just to suit the blind.

Who is to do the condensing, and what parts should be cut? Take "The 5.18

Mystery." You might cut out a bit at the start as unimportant, yet there is a vital fact mentioned in the first few lines which isn't explained until the last few lines. No, sir, you cannot mess up a good detective story or mystery story, and what other books is Sir Ian thinking of? Biographies?

It should be the aim of an author to interest his reader and take him up a byway from time to time. If we have books cut down they will be nothing but dry toast.

A hearing blind man can read the skeleton braille book and say "That's fine. I'll get the printed book and have it read in full," or if it is made into a Talking Book he can listen to that. We deaf-blind cannot do this.

No, most decidedly no, we cannot have good literature cut, slashed and murdered.

Whilst I am writing, may I speak on another subject? This is that the wireless, talking films, etc., have led to people reading less, and therefore to becoming bad spellers. Ovingdean, for instance, is spelt by different St. Dunstan's men in about thirty different ways. They just spell the word as it sounds. Many of our men do not read Braille, so never read how names are properly spelt.

Yours sincerely,

Southwick.

GEORGE FALLOWFIELD.

DEAR EDITOR,

The question raised in the Chairman's Notes last month is one which, I think, merits much attention by all who are concerned in the preparation and production of Braille reading matter, and of course no less by those who duly use such material.

The problem is no doubt one which has always confronted the producers of Braille books and periodicals, but judging by specimens from to-day compared with those of say thirty years ago or more, progress does not seem to have been very marked.

No doubt a certain degree of improvement as regards size and bulk can be effected by careful condensation. This method, however, will always be open to certain objections, and in itself does not really get to the root of the matter, which, to my mind, is the fact that Braille transcribed material denotes a lot of paper with corresponding magnitude as regards size and weight.

On the question of weight one wonders whether there may not be the possibility of considerable improvement here. This is

purely a technical point, but if there were a paper equivalent of, say, balsa wood, or aluminium, of suitable texture and toughness to take Braille, this might go a long way in solving at any rate part of the problem.

Whether such an improvement in itself would in its turn enable the actual size of the book or periodical to be decreased somewhat, can perhaps only be conjectured, but I think this might follow.

Without actual technical knowledge it is, of course, not difficult to make suggestions for such improvements which, however, may not prove an economic proposition.

But it is to be hoped that notwithstanding this ever-present factor, scientific research should be able to produce something noteworthy to the benefit of braille reading matter.

In this connection, particularly, one wonders whether the utmost advantage is taken of international co-operation in the spheres of research and production relating to braille reading matter. This would seem to be a matter for UNESCO, and it may be that some such activity is already carried on by that organisation. One hopes so, anyway.

Yours sincerely,

Iver, Bucks.

J. E. ROSTON.

DEAR EDITOR,

On reading Sir Ian's article on Braille books I am disappointed to find that the spiral wire binding has been discontinued. I take it that this method is too costly. Even a full sized book bound in the method mentioned becomes half its present size when being read. Could not book covers be made something like loose-leaf books with, say, four or five rings which would open, also fixed so that they would remain rigid? If this could be done, readers could purchase a cover and books could be punched with holes to correspond and placed into the cover by the reader.

With reference to the abridging of books, I very much agree with Sir Ian that so much could be left out that is not essential, but then who is to say what is and what is not essential? I take it that all authors allow their works to be brailled free of royalties, but if we ask to be allowed to use the blue pencil, would this privilege be so easily granted?

Yours sincerely,

Hove.

MALCOLM JORDAN.

DEAR EDITOR,

I believe that this talk of 100 per cent.-plus payment to the disabled with multiple injuries is injurious to disabled pensioners as a whole. The so-called 100 per cent. pensioner has received increased allowances, such as attendance allowance and comfort fund, whereas those getting less than a 100 per cent. have had very little increase since 1918. Admitting that all pensions are much too low, these schemes of additional allowances for certain classes only are definitely detrimental to the other classes. Pensions should be based on the multiple injuries and that figure used as the 100 per cent. basic pension. It would then be found that the man who was only totally blind was to-day getting about 80 per cent. of that present day sum, and that the so-called 50 per cent. pensioner was really only getting 25 per cent.

In the struggle for improved pensions, let us all try and give the badly wounded man a square deal but in doing so, let us not forget the man who has only lost a leg or an arm and has had the rawest deal of all. The British Legion proposal of a 90/- a week basic pension would naturally help to put this matter right, for this would be raising the 100% level and all classes including the multiple injured would benefit, and this indeed should be the present day objective.

To prevent any misunderstanding, may I emphasise that it is the system of increased allowances, suggested by Padre Nugee on a 100%-plus basis, that I am opposed to, not the increase of the pensions of the real 100% disabled.

Yours sincerely,

Addiscombe.

EDGAR R. ETTRIDGE.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was interested to read the letter from Padre Nugee about the degree of disablement and the pension award in which a man who has lost his sight received the basic maximum of 55s., whilst the man who has lost his sight plus an arm or a leg or both, or has lost some other faculty, still only received the basic maximum of 55s. This fact gives rise to the belief that pensions are not based on the amount of injuries sustained, or the loss of faculties endured beyond a certain level; this is essentially true as in cases quoted, but

strangely enough, if a man is below 100% he is based on individual loss of faculty, and here I can do no better than quote my own case which places me in a unique position.

When I was first wounded I lost the sight of my right eye only, the left one being to all intents and purposes undamaged. I also lost the use of my right arm but still retained that limb. After appearing before several medical boards, I was finally assessed at 80% on the following basis (note my point mentioned above): 40% for loss of sight in right eye, 40% for loss of use of right arm. Some months later it was found that my left eye was badly damaged despite previous examinations and I subsequently lost the sight of that eye also; after some considerable delay my pension was increased to 100%, but not on the basis of loss of sight plus loss of use of right arm, but in the general term, Total Disablement. In effect, this meant that if I recovered the use of my arm my basic pension would still remain 100%. However, after six years it was found necessary to amputate the arm, but my pension was not increased. It may be argued that in cases like mine we receive special attendance allowances. This is true, but here we are sitting on the fence as these allowances may be taken from us at any time, leaving us only the basic pension.

I wonder if many other pensioners are aware that other anomalies exist, one in particular being the fact that whilst employed, the disabled man pays full National Insurance contributions; he does not however, receive full benefits when sick. Instead he receives sickness benefit for himself and only the difference between dependant's allowance on N.I. and dependant's allowance on War Pension. The same thing applies if the pensioner is unemployed, despite the fact that he may have contributed for a great number of years, so in effect, we are actually contributing to our own pension.

Perhaps one day we really shall have a land fit for heroes to live in, free from care and financial worry, although we should be the last to call ourselves heroes; we are just lucky to be alive.

Yours sincerely,

Kingston-on-Thames.

GEORGE REED.

DEAR EDITOR,

While congratulating George Ellis on his article headed, "Rise and Shine," may I be allowed to correct him in his supposition that the dwellers on the third floor are early risers? What appalling ignorance, as everyone knows that the third-floorers are always on night-shift and what G. Ellis took for signs of early rising were, in fact, signs of the night-shift returning from a hard night's work.

As everyone knows, these men are engaged on very secret work; that of metalurgicaltherapistery.

Their job is to rub the bruises out of the hulls of space-ships, where such hulls have been dented by asteroids colliding with the ships during their supersonic journey through interstellar space. Any kid will know that much.

As to the words, *marne*, *contalmaison*, or *ploegsteert*, these are merely symbols used in their profession, as other trades use such words as *ulnar*, *tibia*, *loaf*, and *plates of meat*. So that it is easy for the uninitiated to draw a wrong conclusion.

If the writer of "Rise and Shine" would like to see over their work-place all he has to do is to go to one of the entrances, situated at Whitehorse, Bristol, Burlington or Arlington. There he will understand and, I hope, be satisfied.

In conclusion, I feel that I must mention that the third floorers do some sort of physical drill, such as deep breathing exercises, as I heard one breathing very hard just after he had found the edge of a half-opened door with his bare toe. And although the name at the foot of this is somewhat different, I must confess also to the cognomen of Senter Rubnot.

Very confidentially and sincerely,

ERNEST E. J. S. BURTON.

Cliftonville, Margate.

DEAR EDITOR,

I am amused, in a nice sort of way, at the little gem "Rise and Shine," in last month's issue.

Over the past years I have never experienced the loneliness of the writer but, maybe, I do not lie abed until 8.30 a.m. I have found that at 7 to 7.30 a.m. I have not been the first to wash away the cobwebs of sleep, and when I have trotted off for my pre-breakfast walk, I am not the first to brave the perils of the top path or tunnel, or dodge the waves on the Undercliff.

I find that I meet World War I men toddling back, or chatting together at the foot of the cliff steps upon the embrasure, have been accepted by them, and had many a nice breath of fresh air and "the other chap's view" whilst our friend is doddling along to his lonely bathroom.

Of course I am Second War and may be a stranger to the writer of "Rise and Shine," but I learned much from our older colleagues. One of them taught me that a nice stroll before breakfast is grand and oft-times one can, at Brighton, get the best of the day before breakfast. My younger colleagues will find that a nice bit of exercise after the early morning tea will give them an opportunity to make some good pals.

There is a popular idea that in a blind man's world the one-eyed man is king, but I always think that out before breakfast at Ovingdean a T.B. man is an Emperor.

Sincerely, JOHN A. MUDGE.
Tottenham, N.17.

Braille Literary Competition

The Queensland Musical, Literary and Self-Aid Society for the Blind, Australia, have sent us details of their annual Amateur Literary Competition in which prizes of £5 and £2 are offered for a one-act play, a short story, an essay and poems. The competition is open to blind and semi-blind people throughout the English-speaking world. The Editor will be glad to send details to anyone interested. (The closing date for entries is October 31st).

"On My Way"

A St. Dunstaner recalls this month the entertaining contacts he made during his journeying to and from his work, and another correspondent, Jim Shaw, has suggested that St. Dunstaners might contribute interesting and amusing incidents which happened to them while travelling. This is an excellent idea and we invite *your* travel story. Mark your entries "On My Way," keep them as short as possible, and send them to the Editor not later than August 31st. There will be 10s. 6d. for each one published.

Wanted

Has any St. Dunstaner one of the original Talking Book machines which he no longer uses and which he would like to sell? Please send details to Alan Nichols, Rose Bungalow, 97 Mile Oak Road, Portslade, Sussex.

The Old Contemptibles

The following letter has been sent to Sergeant Alan Nichols by Mr. C. D. Wills, Welfare Superintendent.

Dear Alan,

Following our talks on the telephone and the correspondence that has passed between us, I have now had a word with Sir Ian and he has shown me your letter to him of July 3rd.

Your suggestion that we should have an Old Contemptibles Reunion at Brighton is an excellent one which we appreciate, but there are certain difficulties about carrying it out in the exact way you suggest. First of all, we do not know all the men concerned, because only twenty have replied to a note I put in the *ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW* in April. Secondly, we do not feel that it would be justified to bring men from all over the United Kingdom and Ireland to Ovingdean for just one week-end, because there are not quite the same reasons to arrange such an event for the Old Contemptibles as there are for the Physiotherapists, who have business to discuss, and for the deaf men who have such a severe double disability.

However, we are inviting St. Dunstaners generally to take a second period of convalescence or holiday during the autumn or winter months if they so desire, and the idea has occurred to us to write to each of those who have informed us that they are Old Contemptibles, and suggest that they do this during a particular fortnight. It is fairly certain that all would not wish to come, or be able to come, but if a number do so it would be very pleasant for them to meet comrades who bear the distinction of having belonged to the "Contemptible Little Army."

Yours sincerely,

C. D. WILLS,
Welfare Superintendent.

The following St. Dunstaners who are Old Contemptibles have so far sent in their names:—

A. E. Alexander (Black Watch), W. W. Burden (1st Bn. The Buffs), E. Butler (North Staffordshire Regiment), R. Chaplin (South Wales Borderers), M. E. Goundrill (Northumberland Fusiliers), W. F. Halls (Labour Corps), H. E. Hill (1st Wiltshire Regiment), A. H. W. James (2nd Wessex Field Ambulance), J. W. Kerr (1st Irish Guards), D. McLoughlin (Connaught Ran-

gers), F. Marsden (1st Border Regiment), J. Mitchell (Seaforth Highlanders), G. J. Moeller (Manchester Regiment), A. Nichols (Durham Light Infantry), G. H. Richards (Grenadier Guards), W. A. Robinson (Lincolnshire Regiment), W. Shayler (Border Regiment), G. J. Smith (Grenadier Guards), A. E. Snook (Royal Artillery), A. E. S. Whiting (A.S.C. and Royal Flying Corps).

Thoughts on Education

Over sixty years ago, a boy of 14, applying for the post of office-boy, explained that he was deaf. His future employer replied, "Well, lad, it's better to be deaf than daft, the job is yours." That boy rose to be managing director and, when he died a few weeks ago, left a fortune of more than £100,000. Reading this success story revived memories of many such men, whose class-room education ended at the age of 13 or 14 years.

This trend of thought had a sequel, consequent on my attending a political quiz at which the inevitable question was put, "Does the panel agree with the present method of examining pupils for Secondary Scholarships?" The panel did not, and were particularly severe on the age children were examined. I agreed with the reply, but second thoughts prompted me to supplement the question with "Would any of the team care to set an age at which to decide whether a child is likely to make a better craftsman than a student?" One of our local M.P.s took up the question and replied with, "No, I would not be prepared to set any age limit, I would introduce the comprehensive school."

The answer did not satisfy me, it seemed to presuppose that, if children are kept at school long enough they can achieve the same level of academic success, which is not true. We have to accept the fact that, because nature does not distribute her gifts equally, we all vary in our intelligence quotient. Of course, it is essential in the interest of the community that no expense be spared in securing to each child the opportunity for developing its gifts to their fullest degree. But it is just as essential that no child be kept at studies beyond his mental ability. It is, therefore, imperative that an age be agreed at which to decide whether a pupil shall continue at school or, leave to commence his industrial education.

The general dissatisfaction occasioned

over the early age set for scholarship tests, and the fact that a child has only one chance, could be remedied by allowing each candidate to sit twice, or even three times for a secondary scholarship. But for those pupils who have not made the grade by the age of 14, I would suggest that better use can be made of their class-room space and time.

We can take comfort in the knowledge that education does not end when the schoolhouse is left behind. On the contrary, the change often provokes a challenge which emancipates the intelligence, and the classroom failure becomes a genius in whatever trade or profession he chooses to follow.

T. ROGERS.

Overseas News

We have only just heard that H. Humphries, of Wairapa, New Zealand, and his wife were presented to Her Majesty the Queen, at Government House, when she visited Wellington.

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From. P. Norris, of Nedlands, West Australia, comes a most interesting report of his trip to the Biennial Blinded Soldiers Conference at Brisbane. Jim Buckley, and his wife, met them when they arrived. Percy is still broadcasting twice weekly for the local blind.

★ ★ ★

Since mentioning the award of the M.B.E. to Foster McConnell, of Victoria, Australia, we have seen a full list of his activities. These include twenty years as Federal Secretary and Treasurer of the Blinded Soldiers' Association, eight years as Member of the Commonwealth Council, Disabled Soldier Associations, Committee Member since 1923 of the Victoria Blinded Soldiers Association, and other offices in military, Boy Scouts, sporting and City Council bodies.

★ ★ ★

J. McGuone, of Wellington, New Zealand, writes that he is still practising as a physiotherapist, although not to such a great extent as previously. He was recently the subject of the Personalities Column of the Dominion newspaper. Below an excellent photograph, the article told of his experiences since he arrived in New Zealand in 1912, of his war service and training at St. Dunstan's. It went on: "Mr. McGuone

has few idle moments. He is a radio enthusiast, an accomplished musician, and is enthusiastic about physical fitness. For the past thirty years he has been swimming at Te Aro Baths, up to a mile a day in summer and from 500 to 700 yards in winter. The hardy little band that make up the Bath's "Polar Bears"—all year round swimmers—rate Mr. McGuone as about the toughest of their coterie."

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Elmer Glew writes that the Victoria Blinded Soldiers' Bowling Club has completed its third season of activities. The Singles Champion is Gabe Aarons, for the third year in succession. Rink Champions are Messrs. Melbourne, Corboy, Gray and Hault. Improved Champion, Les Hault, and Open Champion, Geol Watson. Corboy and Williams are first season bowlers.

From the Press Cuttings

The London *Star* carried a top of the column article last month on George Taylor, of Cricklewood, who was blinded at Arnhem and now runs a shop.

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The Newcastle *Evening Chronicle* paid tribute to Billy Bell, of Newcastle, who is a deaf St. Dunstaner, and a poultry farmer.

★ ★ ★

As a follow-up from the Liverpool Reunion the Widnes *Weekly News* carried a personal story of J. W. Kerr.

Placements

J. Donbavand as a telephonist with the North Central Wagon and Finance Co., Ltd., Leeds. J. Padley, of Brighton, as a telephonist with Gregory Housing, Ltd., of Worthing.

National Laying Test, 1954

Report for the ninth period of four weeks, May 25th to June 21st, 1954.

1. G. Cooke ...	952
2. P. Bagwell ...	937
3. P. Holmes ...	924
4. W. A. Smith ...	891
5. W. Webb ...	842
6. J. A. Dix ...	770
7. T. D. Gregory ...	623

Average number of eggs per bird per month—15.29. Average number of eggs per bird to date—148.55.

The Path of Discipleship

"Man Know Thyself" inscribed over the entrance to the Temple told the ancient Greek that there he might hope to find the answer to the age-old question, "What is Man?" On entering he soon found that the guardians of the Temple had enshrined their teaching in religious dramas known as "The Mysteries," whose secrets were only imparted piecemeal to those who had successfully served the long and hard discipleship of the Temple School, which was designed to promote and co-ordinate the faculties of the Soul as well as those of the physical body. In due course a decadent priesthood arose, who by chicanery and superstitious observances sought to hide the fact that they had lost the key to the Mysteries. Inevitably the temple rites fell into disrepute and its fabric into ruins.

In the fulness of time came the Christ who—bypassing the priesthood of His day—proclaimed that "The Kingdom of God is at hand." He too chose a small band of men as disciples—men whose development was such that He could impart to them something of His inner teaching. But He found that even the inner circle of three were scarcely able to grasp its meaning. Nor were they anything but broken reeds until at that first Pentecost after the Lord's death there came the outpouring of the Spirit of God which brought them spiritual illumination and power. That this was no mere figment of imagination is proved by the fact that commercial interests of those far off days offered a great sum for the secret of that power.

The wheel has again turned full cycle and the pure teaching is obscured by schism and superstition. This time, however, the "Key" is not lost. It is enshrined in the brief Lord's Prayer which, taught at Mother's knee, is treasured by all the sects whose divisions disgrace twentieth century Christendom. In the brief space of less than a hundred words, the Master set forth all that man need know of God and his fellow man. Here is outlined the method by which the individual can become at one not merely with his fellow man but with God, who gives to each disciple his daily bread, and who guards him against temptation and evil. Do you doubt this? Then try it out by experimental living and you will soon learn whether it be the Truth or not.

Bristol.

ALEC B. HILL.

Ovingdean Notes

During June we welcomed the Deaf Reunion to Ovingdean and a very full programme of entertainments was arranged. This included an all day outing by steamer to the Isle of Wight, and a trip to the Meltonian factory in London. Mr. Wills and the Northern and Southern Area representatives came down to have tea with the men, and the last day of the Reunion coincided with the Brighton Races and finished up with the usual Farewell Dinner.

We have had two interesting talks at the Centre recently, the first was given by Donald McLeod, at present in training, who was wounded whilst serving with The King's African Rifles in Kenya. His subject was "Present day customs and life in East Africa." His wife and family are still in Kenya. The other lecture was on the occasion when P.C. Edwards from Police H.Q. at Lewes, came and told of handling Police Dogs and their use in crime detection.

Our good friends of the Brighton, Hove and District Bus Companies held their Annual Summer Outing for St. Dunstan's at the end of June, and this was followed by another equally popular event—the Grocers' Association Summer Outing, which this year was at Portsmouth. On both occasions a large party from Ovingdean and West House joined the local St. Dunstaners.

Instead of the usual Sports Day this year, it was decided to run a Garden Party and Sports Meeting on Saturday 10th July, and this proved to be very successful in spite of the doubtful weather.

Sports Results

Medicine Ball, Jack Fulling; Sack Race, Roy Armstrong; Egg and Spoon, George Eustace; 70 yards T.B., Arthur Lenderyou; 70 yards S.S., Jack Fulling.

Congratulations to the winners and a special word of praise to Dorothy Phillipo, the runner-up in the 70 yards T.B. race (which was not handicapped). A fine effort against the male competitors.

Finally, on July 15th, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser visited Ovingdean and West House to inspect the work and say goodbye to those who are leaving at the end of Term. They were accompanied by Dr. Charles Bennett, President of the Australian National Council for the Blind and President of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind.

Talking Book Library

June's Job-lot

A nap hand of books of widely differing content have come to roost on the shelves this month for your future delectation or condemnation. Here is a rough idea of them.

"The Accomplice," by John Pudney, reader Norman Shelley, is an intriguing story of a plot to arrange the disappearance of a famous orator-writer who is completely phoney. Robin, the young hero, is a Dick Barton gone wrong, and the peaceful setting of early morning in Hyde Park with a quiet, old resident bird-man and an innocuous old cove, Arthur by name, proves a useful foil to villainous goings on elsewhere. One or two lady characters help keep the sinister nature of the story down to a gentle simmer, but the lid does blow off when all is ripe. Extremely good, unpleasant stuff.

"The Big Show," by Pierre Clostermann, reader Norman Shelley, has at last brought home to me the gruelling strain of a fighter pilot's life during the war, and the graphic story this Frenchman has to tell is really something.

"Joanna Godden," by Sheila Kaye-Smith, reader Stephen Jack, is a warm story of farming in the Kent marshes. Joanna took over the farm when her father died late last century, and made a go of it despite the headshakings of her neighbours. A pretty, domestic, rural yarn with near romantic tinges.

"The Lonely Bride," by Pamela Hinkson, reader Jack de Manio, delves deep into the troubles of Ireland between roughly 1890 and 1920, using the true Irishwoman wife of the descendant of a Cromwellian settler to feel for Ireland's tragic unrest. Family and friends offset the pathos to some extent but the general gloom seems to predominate despite the Irish mercury. Good maybe, but in downcast mood.

"The Forsyte Saga," by John Galsworthy, reader Robin Holmes, is too long for the average reader to cope with (forty-eight records) but this most beautifully written history of the Forsyte family is a soothing tome to read in parts.

"The Accomplice," Cat. No. 885.

"The Big Show," Cat. No. 886.

"Joanna Godden," Cat. No. 887.

"The Lonely Bride," Cat. No. 888.

"The Forsyte Saga," Cat. 168. This is a new English recording and it has been arranged in four volumes by the Talking Book Library as follows:—

Vol. 1. First nine records of "Man of Property."

Vol. 2. Conclusion of "Man of Property" (seven records), and three records of "Indian Summer."

Vol. 3. "In Chancery" (fourteen records).

Vol. 4. "The Awakening" (one record) and fourteen records of "To Let."

Young St. Dunstaners

Stanley Fletcher (Tooting) has won a scholarship to Beaufoy Borough Engineering Technical School.

★ ★ ★

Malcolm Reed, Kingston-on-Thames, has enlisted into the Army in the Boys' Infantry Training Battalion and will, on completion of boys' service, be transferred to his father's old regiment, the Rifle Brigade. He is sixteen. His father served for eleven years in this regiment before obtaining his commission in the South Wales Borderers.

★ ★ ★

Nine year old Janice Blakeley, Farnworth, has passed with merit her Initial Examination for Piano under Trinity College, London.

★ ★ ★

Michael Burden (Saltdean) has passed a scholarship for Varndean Grammar School.

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Jane Sutton (Madeley) has passed the scholarship examination for the Grammar School. She was the only girl in the village to do so.

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Catherine Regan (Salford), who is fourteen, has had a picture exhibited at Salford.

Marriages

On July 10th, Patricia, daughter of R. Giffin, of Crewe.

Alan Griffie, Bristol, on June 26th, to Miss Beulah Scull.

St. Dunstaners in Brighton and District

Please note the next monthly meeting will be held in the Winter Garden, Ovingdean, on Thursday, September 9th.

F. A. R.

“In Memory”

A.B. William Thomas Edward Collins, *Royal Marines*

With deep regret we record the death of W. T. E. Collins, of Cowes, Isle of Wight. He was sixty-six. He came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1921, and was trained as a mat-maker, and he continued with his craft until his last illness at the end of last year. He was admitted to hospital on June 23rd, and he died there on July 5th.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his son and daughter-in-law, who had cared for our St. Dunstaner since his own wife's death.

Driver Charles August Christian Brampton, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

We record with deep regret the death of C. A. C. Brampton, of Highgate, who will be known to many of his earlier comrades as C. A. C. Bregazzi. He was sixty-eight.

Blinded at Messines Ridge in 1916, he became a St. Dunstaner in September, 1917; he was trained as a physiotherapist and he was in private practice until his retirement five years ago owing to ill-health.

He was a keen bridge player and a member of the London Club. He had been playing at the Club on the day of his death and was returning home when he collapsed in a bus.

We offer our deep sympathy to Mrs. Brampton and her sons and daughters in their loss.

Private William Frederick Lilley, *1/5 Manchester Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. F. Lilley, of Rainworth, Nottinghamshire, at the age of sixty-four.

Enlisting in September, 1914, he was wounded in France in March, 1918, and on his discharge three months later, he came to St. Dunstan's. He trained in carpentry and netting, and took a 1st Class certificate in joinery. During the last war he took up factory work but later returned to joinery. In recent years his health had seriously deteriorated. He was admitted to West House, Brighton, and he died there on June 23rd.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his relatives and friends.

Private William Capstick, *Labour Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. Capstick, of Lancaster. He was in his seventy-eighth year.

Enlisting early in 1915, he was discharged in 1919 and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1927, when he trained as a mat-maker. He carried on his craft until 1949, when failing health forced him to give up. In May of this year he went to Brighton while Mrs. Capstick was undergoing an operation, but he himself was taken ill and he died at West House on June 28th.

Our deep sympathy goes to Mrs. Capstick, who is happily now convalescing, and to her family.

Births

MACNAMARA.—On June 1st, to the wife of S. MacNamara, of Dublin—a son.

WALBRUGH.—On June 16th, to the wife of J. A. E. Walbrugh, of Wivelsfield, a son—Crispin Andrew.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

ADAMS.—To H. Adams, of Rosehill, Oxford, whose newly-born grandson, Stephen, died on June 9th.

CAUSTON.—To S. Causton, of Norwich, whose brother recently died.

MITCHELL.—To W. Mitchell, of Cubitt Town, E.14, whose sister died on June 25th.

POTTER.—To H. Potter, of Hastings, whose sister died at the beginning of the month.

RUSSELL.—To S. Russell, of Manchester, who lost his brother on June 28th.

WATKINSON.—To W. Watkinson, of Croston, whose mother died on June 28th.

★ ★ ★

We have heard with regret of the death of Mrs. Joyner, the widow of our Australian St. Dunstaner, which occurred only ten weeks after the death of her husband.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Johnson, of Moss Side, Manchester, June 26th.

Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Garbutt, Stockton-on-Tees, July 9th.

Grandfathers

G. E. G. Rushton, of Wooler; B. Lammi-man, of Skegness; J. T. Illingworth, of Moreton, Wirral (his fourth grandchild).

★ ★ ★

As in past years, there will be no REVIEW for August.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

GREAT BRITAIN
SEP 12
23 SEP 54

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 418—VOLUME XXXVIII

SEPTEMBER, 1954

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Forty Years On

*"Forty years on, when afar and asunder
Parted are those who are singing to-day,
When you look back and forgetfully wonder
What you were like in your work and your play,
Then, it may be, there will often come o'er you
Glimpses of notes like the catch of a song;
Visions of boyhood shall float them before you,
Echoes of dreamland shall bear them along."*

THESE words come from an old school song. They are not inappropriate at this time, forty years after the outbreak of the First World War which changed the way of life and thought for most of us. As these words are read, the fifteenth anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War will have come and gone.

Sergeant Nichols has suggested a Reunion for the "Old Contemptibles," putting forward the argument that if the Physiotherapists and the Deaf St. Dunstaners and the Officers have their own separate Reunions, why not those who have the honour to wear the Mons Star? This argument is attractive but we found ourselves unable fully to meet the suggestion. There are special reasons for the three special conferences or reunions mentioned and they do not apply to a particular anniversary or to so general a case of St. Dunstaners as the "Old Contemptibles."

To accept the principle would logically involve us in a special reunion for the Dardenelles men, the Dunkirk men, the Normandy men, and so on. Nevertheless, although Ovingdean is so fully booked during the summer and at Christmas that we have to ballot for places, we have vacant beds in the late autumn and we have made the suggestion that "Old Contemptibles" who want a change might notify Mr. Wills and if arrangements can be made suitable to the general well-being and to the men themselves, a number might take their holidays at the same time and thus re-unite with their "Old Contemptible" friends and enjoy themselves together by having a special party at Ovingdean. I hope some, however many or few, for whom it can be arranged and whom it suits, will do this, for I believe in reviving memories and swapping yarns about times and experiences which we have shared.

I wish I had been a year or two older for I should like to have worn the Mons Star; but no doubt each of us did his best in his own time, according to his lights, whether it was

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in the First War or the Second, or in the battles and skirmishes which helped to keep the peace in the Empire and Commonwealth in the years between.

The Irish Meetings

Lady Fraser and I have been to a number of Reunions this year which have given us great pleasure. We have just returned from three in Ireland—Belfast, Dublin and Cork. I was glad to find our Irish comrades in good spirits, and the services of St. Dunstan's working well.

The Irish are famed for many qualities—passion, beauty, eloquence and a warm heart—but what struck me on this occasion was their facility for making entertaining picturesque conversation. Here are three quotations from conversations I had with St. Dunstaners.

Myself: That must be very difficult for you.

Himself: No, sor, I can see a little bit. I am not teetotally blind.

Myself: If I go to the west of Ireland one year, do you think I shall get a salmon?

Himself: Perhaps you may; we leave a few in for the English.

Myself: How do you find your cow?

Himself: I do not have to find her. She comes when I call and I hang my stick on her horn and milk her. If any other body showed her a stick there'd be the devil to pay!

But there was also a sadder side to the Irish Meetings for it is with regret that I have to record the retirement of Mr. Norman Macauley.

Perhaps the following letter which I have written to him will indicate what we, and I am sure, every Irish St. Dunstaner feels about him.

DEAR MR. MACAULEY,

Thirty years is the best part of a life-time, and you have given it to us.

St. Dunstan's and, more important still, St. Dunstaners in Ireland are grateful to you for your kindness and affection. We also appreciate the devotion and efficiency of your work, which has made such a difference to the regard in which St. Dunstan's is held in Ireland, and to the happiness of so many St. Dunstaners and their kin.

Lady Fraser and I send you and Mrs. Macauley our very best wishes for contentment in your retirement, and we look forward to seeing you again.

IAN FRASER.

Tandems Wanted

We have had several requests for tandem cycles recently. If any St. Dunstaner has one which he no longer needs, will he please get in touch with Mr. Wills, Welfare Superintendent.

Sir Clutha and East Africa

One of our most distinguished St. Dunstaners, Sir Clutha Mackenzie, who lost his sight when serving in Gallipoli in World War I, and has been associated with work for the blind in different parts of the world ever since, has just written a most interesting inter-territorial Report on the development of services to the blind in the four East African territories. This follows the six months' visit which Sir Clutha made to East Africa last year at the request of the British Empire Society for the Blind to advise and assist in building up East African organisations, in establish-

ing practical working plans, and in starting new, or expanding earlier, services.

Sir Clutha refers to his meeting with Mr. Alexander Mackay, former Welfare Superintendent of St. Dunstan's, who is now Regional Adviser to East Africa, and states that Mr. Mackay worked with him in the field for four weeks to draw up broad plans for the application of blind welfare principles to the specific background of Africa.

Grandfathers

M. J. Printie, of Edinburgh; J. E. Davies, of Llandyssul; H. Lea, of Great Horton, Bradford; A. K. Knibbs, of Exeter; F. Berisford, of Stoke-on-Trent; H. Driver, of Colne (the thirteenth grandchild); A. Serno, of Bath (for the eighth time); T. Wood, of Congleton, (the sixth); and D. Murphy, of Glasgow, and W. E. Evans, of Erdington, Birmingham, each have a fifth grandchild.

London Club Notes

Road Walking.—The provisional dates of walks for the coming season are as follows:—

Sept.	25—2 miles at Highgate.
Oct.	30—5 miles at Regents Park
Nov.	20—6 " " " "
Dec.	18—7 " " " "
1955	
Jan.	22—10 " " " "
Feb.	19—12 " " " "
Mar.	19—15 miles at South Croydon
April	23—7 miles Championship Regent's Park.

All are provisional dates and subject to alteration. W. MILLER.

Bridge Notes.—Forthcoming Event.

The 7th Annual Bridge Congress at Ovingdean takes place on the week-end of 19th—21st November, 1954, play to commence at 9.15 a.m., Saturday, 20th November.

Will all members wishing to take part in this event kindly send their names to Drummer Downs, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1, not later than 16th October, 1954, so that final arrangements may be completed.

Please Note:—Partners for the Pairs (Sir Arthur Pearson Trophy) will be the same as last year, unless advised to the contrary. W. BISHOP.

To Old Contemptibles

CHUMS,

Here is a further list of boys who have sent in their names as Old Contemptibles since the first list was published in the REVIEW of July last:

A. W. Ballard (Sherwood Foresters); F. J. Brown (Royal Horse Artillery); Percy Cashmore (Warwickshire Regiment); John W. Mahoney (Ulster Rifles); J. Orrell (Royal Field Artillery); G. Priest (Royal Welch Fusiliers); A. J. Radford (King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry); F. Spenceley (Royal West Kent Regt., "The Buffs"); H. Taylor (Sherwood Foresters); W. Webb (Connaught Rangers and Inniskilling Hussars).

Will any other Old Timers who have not yet sent in their names to Mr. Wills (191 Marylebone Road) please do so as we do want the rally to be as strong as possible.

I do hope the old Chums will not suspect a sinister motive in the choice of the date of the Reunion (5th November).

ALAN NICHOLS.

Never Too Old

Are you one of those lonely bachelors whom romance seems to pass by? If so you may be interested to know that through the services of a well-known London Marriage Agency you may acquire a wife off the peg, so to speak. The idea is this.

Having decided that marriage may hold more possibilities than bridge or dominoes, you call at the agency where you will be received by an understanding match maker. After discussing the matter with her, she will present you with a form on which you fill in precise details of your concept of a dream wife. On another form, and in strict confidence, of course, you give full details concerning yourself, such as age, height, nationality, interests, occupation, income and bank balance (if any). The forms are now filled, and having paid your five pounds fee, with eager heart and lighter step you return home to await developments. As soon as the heroine appears on the books who most nearly seems to fit your stipulated requirements, and with the all important proviso that you fit hers, a meeting is arranged, and the rest is up to you.

Your fee of £5 entitles you to any number of introductions, and it is on record that one aspirant suffered eighty-six before marrying the eighty-seventh. Incidentally, if you marry through the agency, you pay another £20, and trust that you have secured a bargain.

Age presents no barrier. The oldest client was an advanced octogenarian, and he is now happily wed to a woman of eighty-four. The youngest was a girl of eighteen, who for some obscure reason, feared that she would be left on the shelf.

Great care is taken by the agency to ensure that all applicants are bona fide, and fortune hunters together with other undesirables are not entertained. Enquiries for marriage partners come from many parts of the world, and to cope with the rush of French women who wish to marry a British husband, a branch office has recently been opened in Paris.

The agency claims with pride that its marriages are more enduring than the normal vogue, for out of over five thousand arranged marriages, only five have resulted in divorce. The normal divorce rate is above seven per cent.

Name and address of bureau supplied on demand!
Ovingdean.

P. J. HARRIS.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

It is humbling to read the answers to one's letters. There are always some who show how dim one has been, even when one thought one was being as clear as daylight. Such a one is the letter from Mr. E. R. Etteridge. He says I was advocating the very things which I think my plan would put a stop to. I said nothing about increasing the basic pension, because I thought everyone agreed on the need for that. But if the present method of assessment produces anomalies, you will not get rid of them just by increasing the basic rate. A new method of assessment is needed.

A man cannot be more than 100% disabled and under the present method he cannot receive as pension more than the full basic rate. What further assistance his disability requires is made up by various grants and allowances, but his pension, i.e. what he receives by right and cannot be reduced, remains just the full basic amount. Those allowances could, presumably, be reduced if the authorities thought his need of them was less, but his disability remains the same. What we want to do is not only to secure for all disabled men an adequate basic pension, but for the specially heavily disabled men a pension—not allowances—more commensurate with their disability. Under the present method of assessment that is impossible, because a man cannot be more than 100% disabled and therefore receive as pension more than the basic rate. Under the method I suggest, a man could be assessed at 150%/200% of pension or whatever limit reason and justice might dictate. This would be his pension for life by right and could not be reduced no matter how much he earned or what the circumstances of his life might be, and in all probability special allowances would no more be needed. Does not a plan like this seem worth considering? I cannot see how it is likely adversely to affect the pensions of the less heavily disabled.

Yours sincerely,

Crowthorne Vicarage, A. C. NUGEE.
Berkshire.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was interested to read the various views of fellow St. Dunstaners concerning Pensions. The only way I can see out of it is to make a one hundred per cent. plus in cases of multiple injuries. Let me say this

however, it is not much use for us to discuss the position between ourselves. Sir Ian has done all that he can and always receives a "sympathetic hearing" in the House, but this is not enough. It is up to every one of us to talk about it whenever we are able, and especially to the local M.P. I am convinced that half of them do not know the true position, and some British Legion members are a bit hazy about it. The fact is that our present pension bears no resemblance to the true position. This is borne out by the awards given by Industrial and other Courts. Pension is only compensation for injuries sustained in Government service.

In addition to this the award should bear some relation to the loss of earning power suffered, bearing in mind that the pensioner has been prevented from following remunerative employment ever since he was disabled.

There is another aspect of this matter. If an industrial award is made it is not varied or adjusted once it is made, although the sufferer may afterwards earn a living at some other trade or profession. It was a clever move to make a "Supplementary allowance," which is subject to a man's circumstances instead of making an award by ROYAL WARRANT, as besides restricting a man's earnings, it debars him from obtaining an Old Age Pension which, by the way, he has had to contribute for in some cases since the inception of the first Insurance Act in 1912.

Please think all this over and when you get the chance, make the position known to the public and especially your own M.P. I am certain that we can put our trust in our Chairman, but give him all the help you can. Get hold of that Member of Parliament and talk to him so that when next the matter is raised in the House there will be more than one lone voice, however eloquent, fighting for us.

Yours faithfully,

W. LOWINGS.

Chandler's Ford, Hants.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was very interested to read the Chairman's Note in the June issue of the REVIEW on making braille books smaller. I have had this subject in my mind for a long time now. I myself don't do much travelling, but I always carry a copy of "Nuggets" in a poacher's pocket fitted in the inner region of my jacket. This magazine always

contains most interesting articles and I mention it because it is the size I find so convenient to carry.

A favourite book of mine in the old days was one called "The After-Dinner Club," by Sapper. Twelve short stories, about twenty pages each. The name emphasises the quality of the stories. With these stories transcribed into braille and bound in the size of "Nuggets" with spiral wire binding dropped into my inner pocket, I could travel with peace and contentment in my mind. Another of my favourite books of the old days is by a fighter pilot of the 1914-18 war period, just short episodes of air combat with Jerry. What an excellent book this would make!

I, with my wife dictating, transcribed into braille all these short stories which I have carried about in my pocket for a long time now and I am still enjoying the reading.

Such a Library will be of great benefit to St. Dunstaners of the proposal comes to pass, and I sincerely hope it will.

Hull.

A. THOMPSON.

DEAR EDITOR,

How heartily I agree with Frank Rhodes' suggestion in the July issue of the REVIEW, that "National News Letter" should be issued in the style of "Nuggets." I take five braille periodicals, and "National News-Letter" is by far the most difficult to read. I do not think that this can be attributed to the quality of the paper used, but to the treatment which it receives in the post. Sometimes two or three lines on each page have been squashed so flat that they are almost unreadable. It would be interesting to know if other St. Dunstaners have similar experiences.

Yours sincerely,

W. KERR.

Edinburgh.

DEAR EDITOR,

In conjunction with a young B.B.C. engineer I am working to perfect as far as possible, a Short-Wave Radio Outfit for a blind person to operate. We are getting some parts, etc., from America.

Could you ask, in the REVIEW, if there are others interested St. Dunstan's folk. Perhaps, if there are, they would write me. We would like to know how many might be interested. It helps with America.

I have bought a transmitter, which my young friend is working on.

Yours sincerely,

Pensax-Stockton, Worcs. ANTHONY LAW.

DEAR EDITOR,

Surely there is not one of us who has not heard of the wonderful work of Dr. Billy Graham at Harringay early this year. Over forty thousand people in London alone gave their hearts to Christ as a result of his ministry and a million and a half others heard him. Dr. Graham would be the last to attribute this wonderful fact to himself and, indeed, he says, "To God be the praise and glory for the wonders He hath done."

We must not sit back complacently, however, to leave God to carry on the work. We must bestir ourselves. Now that Dr. Graham has gone from Harringay and the round of boxing, speedway and greyhounds has been re-focused, the main work throughout the country really begins. It is now the job of the Church to see that Dr. Graham's preaching is put into sincere practice. It was discovered fairly soon that the Church, with its over-worked and therefore exhausted clergy and laity was unable to cope with this sudden, vast change of heart, so some other method had to be devised to take the responsibility for the re-diffusion and study of the Word of God.

A true man of God, who at this stage will remain anonymous, conceived in his mind the idea of "Operation Andrew." He gathered round him a small group of Harringay converts and is training them for the instruction of other people who will, in turn, train others in the Christian way of life. "Operation Andrew," which, by the way, has no direct connection with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Crusade, is the title given to a thought merely for the sake of reference. It is becoming the reference of Christ's work in Britain.

A trained person may form little groups of fellowship in Christian philosophy within the sphere of church, club or home.

A sincere and experienced article: "Discipleship," appeared in the June issue of the REVIEW and was, it is hoped, read by all. It might be regarded as an appropriate, if unwitting, herald to this letter of mine.

If any St. Dunstaner—or anyone else—is interested in hearing more, will he or she write to me, care of the Editor of the REVIEW?

Yours very sincerely,

E. STEWART SPENCE.

Hillingdon, Middlesex.

The Last Reunions of 1954

The Irish meetings at Belfast, Dublin and Cork, were attended by Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, and they were Mr. Norman Macauley's last meetings as St. Dunstan's Welfare Visitor in Ireland. Through a little committee of their own, St. Dunstaners in Ireland had banded together to make a presentation to Mr. Macauley and on their behalf, Sir Ian said he was very happy to present to Mr. Macauley a radiogram as a tribute to his great kindness and devoted work over so many years. The work done for so long by Mr. Macauley would in future be carried on by Miss Ruth Boyd, who had worked with him for eleven years.

On September 2nd, the men of the West Country met at Exeter, the Rev. F. Darrell Bunt, a member of St. Dunstan's Council, being the guest of honour; and on September 8th, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser attended the big meeting at Brighton. Mrs. G. H. Beatty of Johannesburg (Mrs. Beatty is President and Chairman of St. Dunstan's, South Africa), Air Commodore and Mrs. G. Bentley Dacre, Captain Hutchinson, Chief of Police, and representatives of the South-down Bus Company, the Federation of Grocers' Associations, and Toc H were among the other guests at this most successful meeting. Sir Ian thanked the mayors and corporations of Brighton and Hove, and the general public, for their interest in St. Dunstan's—"no two towns in the world," he said, "had done more for the war-blinded of two world wars." The speakers were thanked by Messrs. W. T. Curtis-Willson, of Brighton, and H. Greatrex, of Peacehaven.

Test Results

Typing.—W. Kirkpatrick, R. Benson, A. Warren, D. Stott.

Preliminary.—Vera Kemmish, R. Harmsworth.

Writing.—A. Dean (Australia).

Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. T. Breakwell, of Sheldon, Birmingham, were married forty years ago on September 9th. Congratulations!

★ ★ ★

We understand that AJEX (Association of Jewish Ex-servicemen and Women) have kindly extended a welcome to any St. Dunstaners and their partners who would like to attend their Old Time Dancing evenings on Wednesdays at 8 p.m., at 38 Theobald's Road, Holborn, W.C.1. No special tickets are needed.

Talking Book Library

August's Arcade

Three romances and a scriptural-cum-historical novel represent the new reading produced in the holiday month. No thrills or spills, just four good, quiet stories of varying interest.

"The Enchanted April," by the author of "Elizabeth and Her German Garden," reader Jean Metcalfe, is a most endearing and unsophisticated little story of two wives who by chance meet and rather guiltily book an Italian villa for the month of April. They rope in two more women to cut down expenses and after a shaky start they are joined by husbands and suitors and the final week becomes a sheer paradise of affection and general benevolence. Naïve, amusing, heart-warming! *Cat. No. 890.*

"Clayhanger," by Arnold Bennett, reader Eric Gillett, is the name of a family living in one of the Potteries' "Five Towns." Edwin, the son, is the main character and though his life is somewhat uneventful, the rather tragic and eventful life of his father figures largely in the narrative. The townsfolk add colour to the yarn, and it is beautifully written. N.B.: The recently dramatised version was far less interesting than the book. *Cat. No. 891.*

"The Big Fisherman," by Lloyd C. Douglas, reader Stephen Jack, is a daring depiction of one, Simon called Peter, and it does vitalise the time and people of the then Palestine. The hatred of Arab for Jew, tempered by the Roman menace, makes a realistic background to this story of sceptic turned first lieutenant to the Carpenter. Excellent. *Cat. No. 892.*

"Lise Lillywhite," by Margery Sharpe, reader Alvar Lidell, is a 17-year-old, delicately matured in France during the last war. Her professor grandfather and "Tante Emilie," a conventional dragoness, bring her to London where cousin Martin is smitten by Lise, but he does not figure in the match-making plans of "Tante Emilie." Lise herself eventually sorts things out. A trifle humdrum but not at all bad.

Cat. No. 893.

NELSON.

B.Sc. (Econ.)

Congratulations to Paul Nuyens, a Belgian St. Dunstaner of the 1914-18 war, who has passed his final examination for the degree of B.Sc. (Econ.), of London University.

Manchester Club Notes

A correction is necessary in the report of the results of the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Competitions which appeared in the June issue of the REVIEW. The names were in the wrong order for Darts T.B. and for Whist. The correct results were—Darts T.B.: A. Clarke, winner; S. Heys, runner-up. Whist: W. Bramley, winner; W. Bentley, runner-up. The most successful players in the competitions who become entitled to hold the cups for one year are—Dominoes: S. Heys. Cribbage: W. Bentley. Darts S.S.: W. McCarthy. Darts T.B.: A. Clarke.

Most members have now had their holidays and definite progress is being made with the annual competitions at the Club. In this connection we hope that regular attendance will be maintained.

We are pleased to record the welcome extended to our members by the Old Veterans' Association of Bolton, on the occasion of the presentation by them of a cheque to St. Dunstan's. At this function on Wednesday, the 18th August, we were represented by Messrs. H. Abrahams, J. Blakeley, H. Earnshaw, J. Ince and J. Shaw, whilst Dick Brett came up from Brighton along with Jack Jarrold. In this matter we do not wish to trespass on the privilege of others to record the occasion, but we feel obliged to mention that we appreciate very much the splendid arrangements made by the Association. In the first place we were entertained to a sumptuous high tea at the Rose and Crown Hotel. Then we were "taxied" to the Association's Headquarters where a special evening had been arranged. About midway in a concert, His Worship the Mayor of Bolton arrived, and after a brief respite, he spoke to the gathering and received the cheque from the Chairman of the Association; thereupon he handed the cheque to Mr. Jack Jarrold, who accepted it very suitably in some well-chosen words of thanks.

On Friday, the 20th August, the members of the Club, with escorts, again honoured an invitation to the Old Veterans' Club where ten of our members played darts against a selected team from the Association. The result was three games to two against us. The thanks of the Club was expressed by the Chairman.

On Saturday, the 4th September, the Club's Annual Outing took us to Blackpool

and we were favoured with lovely sunshine all day. On arrival, the members were free to do as they pleased until we all assembled at the Bourne Hotel, opposite the home recently vacated by St. Dunstan's, where we enjoyed a splendid meal and the usual atmosphere of good fellowship. Miss Vaughan Davies was our special guest and she, in her usual way of providing a surprise, pre-selected two chairs at a table, the chance occupants of which received gifts, the lucky ones being Walter Bramley and his wife. The Club also provided a surprise gift to Miss Vaughan Davies in the shape of a miniature garden of cacti, which she acknowledged with pleasure. This outing was fully enjoyed by all. J. SHAW.

Young St. Dunstaners

Cyril Relf (Slough), is now a Petty Officer in the Royal Marines.

Alan Leigh (Warrington), passed his General Certificate in all eight subjects—and took it a year earlier than is normal.

Pamela Carlton (Morecambe), has gained a First Class Certificate (87 marks) in her Junior Higher, London College of Music, examination for piano playing.

Patricia McCarthy (Northampton), has passed her scholarship examination and will go to the Senior Catholic School.

Marriages

On August 19th, Evelyn Callaghan (Woodbridge), to A3/C F. Edward Buck, of the United States Air Force.

On February 28th, Mary Grogan (Leeds), to Mr. Gibbins, at the Church of St. Patrick, Leeds. Nuptial Mass was celebrated.

On June 30th, Eileen Morgan (York), to Mr. Leslie Sergeant, Royal Air Force. Eileen was a member of the W.R.A.F.

On July 24th, Raymond Jenkins (Porth, Rhondda), to Miss Olwen Williams.

On July 17th, Raymond Millen (Birchington), to Miss Elizabeth Ann Audrey Smith.

On August 14th, Molly Graham (Tottenham).

On July 24th, Ronald Charles Baker (Enfield), to Miss Jean Gwendolyn Young.

Placement

V. D. Robins, as a shop-keeper at Fulham Road, London, S.W.6.

★ ★ ★

Two old members of the staff visited St. Dunstan's Headquarters and South Audley Street recently. They were Mr. A. Mace, now of Australia, and Mr. T. W. Graves, on leave from West Africa.

The Lee-on-Solent Camp

It has been said of the Lee-on-Solent camp that you need a week in training before you go and a week's rest when you get back. This is perhaps an exaggeration but it is certainly true that the camp offers opportunities for actively enjoying yourself from early morning till late at night.

The term "camp" is misleading. It dates from the days when Mrs. Spurway slept St. Dunstaners in tents and cooked for them over a fire in the open. For years now, "campers" have been comfortably quartered in the vast naval shore establishment at Lee-on-Solent as guests of the Navy.

Each morning a sailor wakes you with a cup of tea. Then a party sets off for a bathe before breakfast. After breakfast you settle in one of the easy chairs on the lawn just outside. This lawn and a nearby room form the assembly point of the camp where Mrs. Spurway, the organiser, and her band of helpers are at your service. Here you can have the papers read, send a card home, play cards or dominoes, or indulge in banter with Wrens and sailors.

From here too, you can join a party for one of the organised events, or go with your pals to the town, the beach or the local.

These organised events are a main feature of the camp. They include trips by air-sea rescue launch to Hamble and on round the Isle of Wight; a visit to a warship, with tea on board; an inspection of naval aircraft; a visit to S.S. United States, in Southampton docks; a St. Dunstan's walking race round the three-and-a-half mile station perimeter for medals presented by the Commodore; a tea party and entertainment given by the ladies of the local British Legion.

I particularly enjoyed the trip to Hamble.

Almost every evening there is an invitation to a party at one or other of the naval messes where there is dancing, sandwiches, cakes, ice creams, coffee and beer. The evening usually ends with a roof-raising sing-song and if you fancy yourself at a microphone you can step on to the platform assured of an enthusiastic reception.

The climax of the camp is reached on the last evening when the gold braid turns out for a special party where farewells are said, and everyone is sorry that another camp has come to an end. F. R.

Footnote: Found in top cabin left, one clean handkerchief. Apply: Mrs. Spurway, Vicarage, Holmwood, Surrey.

From All Quarters

J. T. Scrymgeour's "Netherby Mark Twain" added to our St. Dunstaner's many stock-breeding successes by being judged Champion Poll Shorthorn Bull at Sydney Royal Show in April. The "Queensland Country Life" wrote: "Netherby Mark Twain's superb fleshing won him the supreme championship in the best Poll Shorthorn show Australia has ever seen; his win was popular because of his merits as a beef bull; the breed's supreme award to Netherby was popular because Mark Twain was the first bull Mr. J. T. Scrymgeour, O.B.E., has sent on to a Royal show-ground since Her Majesty honoured him for his work as a stud-breeder."

★ ★ ★

A. W. Back, of Shaldon, South Devon, has won the first prize at the Bristol Guild of Blind Gardeners Show for the best fibre mat. All mat-makers in the West of England enter for this competition.

★ ★ ★

Leslie and Mrs. Thompson have moved into their new house at Gateshead—a house which has been built exactly to Leslie's design. "Not," says Mrs. Thompson, "in the sense of drawing, but by verbally constructing it with his Dad and brother." With its genuine oak beams, leaded slit windows in the chimney recess, its oak-panelled walls, and above all, its impression of light everywhere, it sounds, as it is, a "dream house."

★ ★ ★

At the end of Rotarian E. Slaughter's year of office as President of Salisbury Rotary Club, Mr. E. T. Waite, the Editor of the "Salisbury Times," and himself a member of the Rotary Club has praised our St. Dunstaner's "splendid year of service" in a letter to Sir Ian.

★ ★ ★

"Portrait Gallery" of the "Sunday Times," July 18th, was devoted to Colonel "Mike" Ansell, whose sight failed following injuries received at St. Valery in the recent war. Three years in a prisoner of war camp followed. The article, which accompanied a special photograph by Douglas Glass, concluded: "Had he not lost his sight, Colonel Ansell might have been riding with Lieut. Colonel H. M. Llewellyn and Mr. W. H. White in the post-war British show-jumping team; but then we might have lost the chief architect of victory at Helsinki. . ."

R. G. Cameron, of London, N.W.10 has now passed the Home Teachers' examination.

★ ★ ★

In his spare time, E. S. King, of Prittlewell, has made a doll's house. It is of Tudor design and took nine months to complete. It is perfect even to the small front door, which is carved in oak and has a patent catch and spring devised by our St. Dunstaner. The tread and rise of each stair were made separately and then joined together.

★ ★ ★

Albert Collier, of Walkden, has always been busy in his spare time. He has designed and made St. Dunstan's Badge in flowers in his garden, and as the Manchester "Evening Chronicle" says, it is the pride of the district. Other flower designs which he has created in the last fifteen years include the Royal Crown, the badge of the Coldstream Guards and the Loyals, and a Maltese Cross.

★ ★ ★

A. Scott, of Belfast, has been doing some under-water swimming in a frog-man suit in Lough Neagh!

★ ★ ★

A letter headed "End this injustice to Pensioners," from A. J. Radford, of Castle Cary, appeared in his local paper recently. It supported a declaration by a Member of Parliament attacking the regulation which denies an old-age pensioner earning more than £2 a week.

★ ★ ★

The Birmingham "Sunday Mercury" had a long article last month on "Charlie Brown," of Bretby Village.

★ ★ ★

In spite of the wet weather, E. M. Brockie, or Torphins, Aberdeenshire, had a bumper crop of strawberries, a good crop of blackcurrants and gooseberries, and the best early potatoes he has had for years.

★ ★ ★

W. T. Chamberlain, of Reading, won two first prizes at Slough and District Carnival.

★ ★ ★

Harry Humphries, of Carterton, New Zealand, the first New Zealand soldier to be blinded in the last war, was presented to Her Majesty when she visited that country recently. Harry has gone back to his old firm, the Waingawa Freezing Works. He works at present from 3.30 a.m. until 5.30 p.m.!

Ivor R. Turner, of Skipton, has been made Vice-President of the town's Rugby Football Club in recognition of his services to the team as physiotherapist.

★ ★ ★

J. W. Abbs, of Fakenham, sent his string bags to a Norwich exhibition and some were bought by Royal visitors.

On My Way

Here is the first selection of travel stories which were invited in the July REVIEW. The sender of each will receive 10s. 6d. The last date for receiving entries was August 31st.

★ ★ ★

Walking through a fairly quiet London thoroughfare some months ago I bit my tongue in half with the shock of hearing the sudden terrifying blast of what seemed to be a foghorn directly behind me. I then heard the tap tap of someone using a walking stick, but there were no further clues and if I expected any enlightenment from my companion I was in for some irritating delay, for she was making some peculiar noises which I eventually recognized as suppressed laughter. The deafening honk honk had been sounded by a blind person more enterprising than I. No escorts for him; he had a monster bulb motor horn attached to his stick, vertically. A wonderful idea this, and if all the sticks at Ovingdean were similarly equipped one could move with much more confidence through the lounge and about the many corridors.

Liverpool.

GEORGE ELLIS.

★ ★ ★

On arrival at Le Bourget Aerodrome, a pretty young French air hostess took my arm and said, "You come along with me, do not trouble about your wife!" With her arm around me I passed through all the formalities. I was sitting comfortably ensconced in an armchair when Mrs. McAndrew eventually arrived. To me it was a very charming and pleasing incident which brought to my mind the story of the two old men watching the pretty chorus girls. One turned to the other and said, "I wish I was 70 again."

Blackpool.

J. McANDREW.

★ ★ ★

Before relating my story, it would be best that I mention that I am a totally deaf, totally blind St. Dunstaner, thus I depend on vibration to understand what is going on around me.

It was a cold December's evening when I boarded the London bound train at Southampton. I was travelling alone, but had arranged to be met in London. My arrangements being that I would be found in the compartment next to the guard van. But that particular compartment, on this particular evening was fully occupied. I asked if I might sit in the guard van. I was given a single-sized seat, in a small recess on the left-hand side of the guard van, facing the engine. In front of me there was a big iron wheel, which I thought might be some sort of emergency brake. To my left, there was a hot water pipe, the water within must have been scalding. So it seemed that I was to have a warm and undisturbed journey. The train jerked into motion, and so the journey started. We had travelled quite a distance, and I suspected we had done so at a good speed. Suddenly, there was an unusual and unpleasant jolt. The train had left the rails, leaned slightly over to its right, and we were thudding along on the sleepers. In a flash I realised the situation and estimated my chances. If I were to stay in that small recess on the left and should the train topple over to its right, I might avoid something serious. Perhaps that iron wheel would rip out of position and pin me against the wall, so I put a parcel in front of me, with the fond hope that it would numb a blow. That hot water pipe may burst and scald me, but better that than to stand up and be hurled across the van. So I remained seated and waited for the unknown. Miraculously, the train was brought to a standstill within a very short distance. For a few seconds I remained seated, still wondering if we were going to topple right over. Then I got to my feet and groped around the van; there were people running hither and thither. Having no wish to be trampled to death, I returned to my seat for a smoke. I must have been sat there half an hour, when I suddenly felt the vibration of shunting. I jumped to my feet, and again went groping round the van. There wasn't a soul about. I came to the big open doors, held tightly, then dangled a foot out with the fond hope I may contact a footing. My foot landed on someone's shoulder. The owner of the shoulder helped me to scramble out with my bag. We went high stepping over railway lines, until we reached some sort of waiting room, where pulses and temperatures were being taken. I was not injured myself, but can

assure you that a certain part of my body had been very, very twittery.

The newspapers next day stated that the train, at the time of the incident, was travelling at 60 m.p.h.

Southampton.

W. THOMAS.

★ ★ ★

It was in 1915, we were on our way—there were two of us, both T.B. We had arranged to meet two girls at a certain café for tea. Alighting from the bus we still had a short distance to traverse. Time was plentiful, the day was fine, all was well with our world. Strolling along arm in arm we broke into song. Our progress was arrested by a light touch on my arm. Thinking our friends had come to meet us I proffered my hand. Instead of the hand clasp I expected, some coins were slipped into my palm, and a feminine voice said, "For ze song." Later equal shares worked out at fivepence each—the first and I expect the only money I shall ever earn as a street singer.

Bristol.

W. CHAS. TAPLIN.

★ ★ ★

At the factory where I was employed, a fellow worker kindly escorted me to the firm's gardens about half a mile away. Here he would leave me to enjoy my sandwiches, returning an hour later to take me back to work. When the weather was not suitable to sit out of doors, we used to take shelter in the local. In the gardens I made many friends of both sexes. After a few years of this, I regret to say my pal had to give up work on account of ill health and one of my friends who was of the opposite sex kindly offered to take me back and forward during the dinner hour. One of her workmates was a Miss FARMER, who now and again used to have her sandwiches with me as she lived in lodgings about ten miles away like myself. Then my lady escort told me that she would be going on her fortnight's holiday at the end of July. She asked me would I mind if her friend escorted me while she was on her holidays. I was very pleased with this arrangement as Miss Farmer and I had much in common. Our friendship deepened, and I asked her if she would become engaged to me. This we did ten weeks later. All this happened in 1951, and we were married on December 15th the same year. I know our courtship was very brief, but I doubt if there has been a happier married couple than we have been, and we are still courting.

Reading.

W. N. STEPHENSON.

Births

BAGWELL.—To the wife of P. Bagwell, of Charlton Mackrell, Somerset, on August 25th, a son—David John.

CASWELL.—On September 6th, to the wife of J. F. Caswell, of Reading, a son—Michael David.

COOKSON.—On July 21st, to the wife of Ernie Cookson, of Barnsbury, a daughter—Barbara.

FISHER.—On July 28th, to the wife of C. E. Fisher, of Brighton, a daughter—Jacqueline Susan.

HOYLE.—To the wife of C. Hoyle, of Chadderton, a son—Brian.

HOPKINS.—On July 19th, to the wife of N. Hopkins, of Cardiff, a daughter—Susan Elaine.

LITTLE.—On August 11th, to the wife of A. Little, of Carlisle, a son—Malcolm.

MORTIMER.—On August 27th, to Pamela, wife of George A. F. Mortimer, of Hove, a son—Christopher Nigel George.

SHEEHAN.—On August 29th, to the wife of P. Sheehan, of Chislehurst, a son—Kevin Barrie.

SHORTER.—On August 18th, to the wife of J. Shorter, of Laughton, near Lewes, a son.

VOWLES.—On August 8th, to the wife of R. J. Vowles, of Portsmouth, a daughter—Julie Denise.

WATERS.—On September 4th, to the wife of A. R. Waters, of Needham, near Harleston, a daughter.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

BARLOW.—To J. R. Barlow, of Hillsboro, Sheffield, whose mother has recently died.

CAUSTON.—To S. Causton, of Thorpe, near Norwich, whose wife died on September 6th. She had been ill for some time but had seemed to be making good progress.

DICKERSON.—To F. J. Dickerson, of Bristol, whose father has died as the result of an accident.

GARTHWAITE.—To E. Garthwaite, of Plumstead, whose mother has died after being knocked down by a dog.

LEARY.—To P. Leary, of Enniscorthy, County Wexford, whose wife died on July 24th.

REES.—T. A. Rees, of Stanstead, Essex, who lost his mother on September 4th.

ROBINS.—To D. V. Robins, of Fulham (until recently a trainee at Ovingdean), whose father died on August 21st.

SHEPHERD.—To T. Shepherd, of Cliftonville, who lost his father on July 27th.

WOODROW.—To W. Woodrow, of Alderbury, near Salisbury, whose wife died on August 15th. She had been ill for a long time.

Marriage

STOTT—PARKER.—On August 18th, D. Stott, of Bridgend (a trainee), to Miss Mabel Parker, of Cardiff.

"In Memory"—*continued*

Rifleman James Chisholm, *New Zealand Rifle Brigade*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of J. Chisholm, of Waihope, New Zealand. He was seventy-six.

He was wounded at Fleurs in 1916 and was at St. Dunstan's for practically the whole of 1917. He trained as a poultry farmer. Many also will remember him for the verses he light-heartedly contributed to the REVIEW under the name of "Third Reserve." He returned to New Zealand after the war and carried on poultry farming most successfully. In fact, he interested himself in many other undertakings, including a pine-tree settlement to deal with gum, and quite an amount of fruit growing.

For some time he had been a sick man, never without pain, but he was wonderfully cheerful, and was always a very good correspondent with Headquarters.

The poppy wreath of the Returned Soldiers' Association was buried with him; Returned Soldiers of the district were pall bearers.

He was a widower and our deep sympathy is offered to his sister, Miss Jean Chisholm, who had looked after him for thirty-six years.

T. H. White, M.B.E., A. R. Ford, J. Pottage, *Australian Forces*

From Mr. R. Archer, of the Victorian Blinded Soldiers Association, we have heard of the deaths of three St. Dunstaners, two of the First World War, and one of the second.

T. H. White was one of our oldest St. Dunstaners, having been wounded at the Dardenelles in May, 1915. He trained as a basket-maker and rug-maker, but later became interested in poultry. He was keenly interested also in matters concerning his blinded comrades and in 1939 he was awarded the M.B.E. He had been ill for some years but the end was very sudden. He was taken to hospital on July 7th and he died the following day.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. White.

A. R. Ford served with the Australian Imperial Forces in 1914-1918 but did not come to St. Dunstan's, neither had we had any news of him.

J. Pottage was at St. Dunstan's from 1948 until 1950 when he returned home. He trained in cabinet making and veneering. He had been ill for a year and had recently suffered great pain. He leaves a widow and daughter, to whom our deep sympathy is offered.

“ In Memory ”

Private William Henry Hildick, *1st Leicestershire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. H. Hildick, of Shrewsbury, at the age of 55.

Enlisting in 1914, he was wounded in France early in 1918 and came to St. Dunstan's. For very many years he was keenly interested in poultry farming, and had made a great success of it. During the last eight or nine years, however, his health had gradually deteriorated, and he had suffered considerable pain.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Hildick.

Private Albert Gaffney, *Monmouth Regiment and Lancashire Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of A. Gaffney, of Manchester, in his fifty-ninth year.

He enlisted in 1914 and in 1917 was discharged from the Army having received injuries as a result of a shell-burst when serving in the Dardenelles. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1924 and trained as a basket maker. For a short period he also did industrial work but he was never very strong and he went down rapidly during the last few years of his life. He died in hospital on July 4th.

To his widow and family our deep sympathy is extended.

Richard Barber, *Munition Factory*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of R. Barber, late of Bexleyheath but recently of West House.

He lost his sight as a result of his work in a munitions factory at Woolwich, and he came to us in April, 1921. He trained in basket making, then added netting to this craft, and he did this until he entered West House as a permanent resident in 1951. He was admitted to Hove General on August 14th, and he died there three days later.

He was laid to rest with his wife who died in 1946.

He leaves a grown-up family to whom our very sincere sympathy is offered.

Sapper Walter Jones, *Royal Engineers*

We record with deep regret the death of W. Jones, of Broadstairs. He was seventy-one.

He came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1918, and trained as a mat-maker, and later as a netter. He continued this work until a very short time ago. In June, he was admitted to the Sick Ward at Ovingdean, where he died on August 3rd.

Private Henry Edward Jeffries, *Royal Warwickshire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. E. Jeffries, of Lower Bevendean, Brighton, at the age of sixty-five.

He was discharged from the Service in February, 1918, and came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1936. He then trained as a netter and he had continued with this work until latterly.

A widower, he had lived with one of his sons until he was admitted to Brighton General Hospital on June 27th. He died there on July 29th.

Our sympathy is extended to his grown-up family.

Gunner James McVey, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

With deep regret we record the death of J. McVey, of Braintree. He was in his seventy-eighth year.

He came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1918, and trained in netting. This craft he followed until 1944, when his crippled hands forced him to give up. In February of last year he was admitted to West House, and he died there on July 24th.

He leaves a widow to whom our deep sympathy is offered.

Private Harold Mitchell, *Border Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. Mitchell, of Bournemouth. He was in his sixty-fourth year.

Discharged from the Army in 1919, he came to us in December, 1946, and trained as a basket-maker. Although his health had worsened during the past year or so, he had continued working up to the time of his death. He was admitted to hospital on August 26th and he died there the following day.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom we extend our very sincere sympathy.

Private Harry Sidney Bishop, *Royal Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of H. S. Bishop, of Bury St. Edmunds.

He was wounded in 1918, losing the sight of one eye, but the sight of his other eye deteriorated and during the last eighteen months he had been totally blind. He had therefore only very recently come to St. Dunstan's and the serious state of his health had prevented him not only training but even visiting Ovingdean. He passed away on July 25th.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his widow, two sons and daughter.

Private Thomas McCarthy, *Royal Munster Fusiliers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of T. McCarthy, of Charleville, County Cork. He was in his sixty-third year.

He enlisted in 1911 and was discharged from the Army in 1916. Following gradual deterioration of his sight as a result of his war injuries, he came to St. Dunstan's in 1951. His health had not been good for some time but nevertheless his death, on July 24th, was unexpected.

There was a large attendance of friends at the funeral, at which St. Dunstan's was represented by Mr. Michael Tynan, of Charleville.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and adopted daughter.

Continued on page 11

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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GROWING OLDER

(Contributed)

While I am ready to agree we are never too old to learn, I think a man about to celebrate his fortieth birthday has passed the toddling stage and an organisation nearing forty years' activity has begun to feel its feet, especially when that organisation happens to be St. Dunstan's. Its reputation is world-wide, and not because it belongs, as it were, to the British Empire, for men of all nationalities and races have passed through St. Dunstan's and amongst them, hundreds of doubly handicapped who presented gigantic problems.

Special typewriters and braille machines have been invented, special gadgets made for others, special tools and special workshop equipment for the man with special problems.

Everything was not foreseen; we had to learn often from experience, and the lesson was often expensive.

I am reminded of when I had just settled down and both my wife and I had a lot to learn. I was working in my shed at the end of the garden after dark when she came in; I, unable to hear and my work preventing me from feeling her enter, I did not stop work. She went groping round until she was slashed across the face with a piece of cane; about the same time a friend called and in his case he tripped over my plank and fell with his face in the staking. Thus St. Dunstan's realised the need for a light in a deaf-blind man's workshop.

Since the last war we have included many more modern methods and improvements; nevertheless there are times when a well-meaning person comes along with an idea that was put forward years ago, thoroughly investigated and then scrapped as not worth while. One of these was the method of lip-reading by touch and it was scrapped in view of the active life we deaf men of St. Dunstan's lived, and still live. When I find a girl like Gwennie talking to me, who has only part of a forefinger and thumb on her left hand, I see no excuse for people with two complete hands. Indeed, Sgt. Alan Nichols learnt the manual and spoke to me for years with his artificial hands, with slight alterations; unfortunately we didn't meet much during the war so the old Sarge got out of practice. Other handless men adopt the well-known block letter method which was used by escorts in walking races except that the latter wrote on our backs as we strode along. The late W. Birch had his own system. We were together for the first time and he badly wanted to ask a question and at first I was puzzled at his tapping of my hand. Then I realised he was tapping Braille dots. So fast did he go at his particular method that he was streets ahead of an expert at the manual who was confined to longhand.

My young friend, Wally Thomas, has met and chatted with Mr. Hatton who was referred to a month or so ago, and was no more interested in the touch-lip reading than I was after meeting and chatting with Helen Keller twice, first in London years ago, then at Ovingdean in November, 1946.

GEO. FALLOWFIELD.

War Pensions Debated

Speaking at the Conservative Conference at Blackpool on October 7th, Sir Ian Fraser in a debate on war pensions said the claims of all classes of pensioners were equal but those of the war pensioners were especially so. It had been suggested there was some conflict between the claims of war pensioners and old age pensioners. That was not so—certainly not in the minds of the British Legion.

Britain had done much to alleviate the burden of her most severely disabled men but there were hundreds of thousands of partially disabled men who still received, by way of war pension and allowances, money which bought less now than had been customary for years. When currency was de-valued through war or policy, it was up to the nation to make good to those men by bringing up to an appropriate value the compensation which they received. "It is a matter of honour," he said, "to look after the men who were hurt in our service as we promised and implied we would do when they went to war."

(Applause).

In his reply, Mr. Peake, Minister of Pensions and National Insurance, said that when the Government announced its new pensions plans, it would be able to claim that it had made good the whole of the loss suffered by pensioners between 1946 and 1951. He told Sir Ian, "for the seriously disabled war pensioner, I hope we shall be able to do something further still."

Aston Villa F.C.

The Aston Villa Football Club, who take a keen interest in St. Dunstaners, are arranging to lay on a commentary on the game at Villa Park every Saturday when the team plays at home.

This will take place at a small room on the ground and the commentaries will be given by the owners.

We should like those interested in football to make an effort to come along and support this very generous gesture.

Please send your name to D. Cashmore, 50 Umberslade Road, Selly Oak, who will keep you informed.

E. M. KING, *Welfare Visitor*.

Placement

R. Armstrong, of Leytonstone, as a capstan-lathe operator with Messrs E. N. Bray, Whipcross Works, Walthamstow.

Deaf-Blind Watch Fund

This Fund—as my St. Dunstaner friends will know—was started early in 1945 by our old friend, Mr. Ottaway, and since that date the substantial sum of £716 has been subscribed almost entirely by St. Dunstaners.

The object of the Fund is to supply Braille watches to the civilian deaf-blind, and I hear from the National Deaf-Blind Helpers' League that they still have on their lists about one hundred deaf-blind persons who have no watch.

In the early days of the Fund, Braille watches were difficult to obtain and costly, but now they are cheaper as purchase-tax is no longer payable and there is no difficulty with supplies. The present cost of a braille watch is £4 13s. 0d.

A few St. Dunstaners have maintained their interest in the Fund during the past year or so, and the Bridge Club have very kindly sent a braille watch to the National Deaf-Blind Helpers' League every year. I feel sure there may be many St. Dunstaners who might care to send me a small donation for this little Fund, which gives such pleasure to our deaf-blind friends.

W. ASKEW, *Hon. Treasurer*.

Great-Grandfathers

With the birth of Dennis Rose, our St. Dunstaner, G. Rose, of Pontefract, becomes a great-grandfather, and his mother a great-great-grandmother, five generations being represented. He now has seventeen grandchildren.

H. H. Burnett, of Enfield, also has our congratulations upon becoming a great-grandfather for the first time.

Grandfathers

W. Thomas, of Wakefield (a daughter for Barbara); F. Beresford, of Stoke-on-Trent; T. H. Brewer, of West House (five grandchildren now); R. Edwards, of Denbigh; L. Jackson, of Heswall; J. H. Dalton, of Middlesbrough; J. Boyd, of Brighton (a second grand-daughter); E. Watts, of Birkenhead; W. Thomas, of Shipley; J. D. Rose, of North Berwick; and J. Thompson, of Parkstone (a second grandson).

★ ★ ★

Maureen Lees was awarded a Certificate of Merit for a pram cover and towel submitted to the Ministry of Pensions Preliminary Competition prior to the Olympia exhibition.

London Club

Bridge Notes

The opening event after the August recess was the annual visit to Harrogate. Eight members of the Club made the journey, and we do appreciate most sincerely the assistance given to us by Mr. R. Willis, who was in charge of the party.

The week's programme was divided between match and social bridge, our team winning three out of the four matches played.

The St. Dunstan's trophy (teams of four), open to all clubs in Harrogate and District, was won by the Starbeck W. M. Club, the Oakdale Golf Club finishing a very close second.

On the Friday evening we held our At Home night at the Dirlton Hotel; the prizes for the bridge drive were made by St. Dunstaners.

A vote of thanks was extended to Mr. F. L. Nokes and Mr. W. Burgess for the work they do to make this a most enjoyable week. In reply, Mr. Nokes expressed the desire that next year at least twelve members would visit Harrogate. Please bear this in mind.

On September 18th the North *v.* South match took place, which resulted in a win for the North by 2,200.

Only one team, comprising Messrs. Gover, Nuyens, Winter, Thompson and Bulman, is entered for the London Business Houses League. They won their first match, against the Civil Service, by 21 match points, on Friday, September 24th, and their second, against Hicomind, on October 1st, by five match points. W. BISHOP.

Walking Section

The Walking season for 1954-55 commenced on Saturday, September 25th, with the annual two-mile race at Highgate.

Ten St. Dunstaners were there to take part, including a newcomer, Ron Harmsworth, a trainee at Ovingdean, and we were very pleased to welcome him. Ron was the first man off in the open handicap and maintained a good pace throughout the two miles. Charles Stafford was second off and walked very well to win. Alf Bradley, showing great improvement, was second, and Archie Brown (still going strong) was ninth to start and finished third. Charles Williamson was a very close fourth, Bill Miller, the scratch man, laying a lazy fifth.

Prizes were presented to 1st, 2nd and 3rd, handicap, and first, second, third actual times, with Archie taking one of each.

W. M.

St. Dunstan's Two Mile Invitation Walk

Promoted by Highgate Harriers

Parliament Hill Sports Track

Saturday, September 25th, 1954

Order of Finish	Actual Time	Time Allow.
1. C. Stafford	17:31	2:25
2 A. Bradley	17:36	1:55
3 A. Brown	17:39	:20
4 C. Williamson	17:41	:25
5 W. Miller	17:45	Scratch
6 L. Dennis	17:58	2:05
7 T. Gaygan	18:02	:40
8 S. Tutton	18:35	1:30
9 P. Cryan	18:50	:30
10 R. Harmsworth	20:27	3:30

Winner of Handicap	C. Stafford.
Second	A. Bradley.
Third	A. Brown.

Fastest Times:

1st	W. Miller.
2nd	A. Brown.
3rd	C. Williamson.

Handicapper, Mr. W. J. Harris.

Presentation to Mr. Doughty

On Tuesday evening, October 12th, at the London Club, the presentation was made to Mr. A. W. Doughty of his retirement gift to which St. Dunstaners from all over the country had subscribed.

Mr. Askew, who presided, said he had been asked to act as Hon. Treasurer of the Fund and he would call on Mr. Sammy Webster, Chairman of the London Club, to make the presentation. In a neat little speech, Sammy paid tribute to Mr. Doughty's thirty-six years of service, then handed to him a handsome wrist watch.

Replying, Mr. Doughty said that this was the first time he had been to the London Club, "but," he said, "when I say thank you, I am not thanking only those here tonight but St. Dunstaners all over the country who have so kindly contributed to this gift. The watch will every day remind me—if I need any reminding—of the long and happy time I have spent in the service of St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners."

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

The following is a reply to P. J. Harris's article re marriage bureau in the September issue of the "REVIEW"

*Oh, Peter, Oh, Peter, you sure had a go
When you advertised your marriage bureau,
But you must admit you made an omission
When you failed to divulge your rate of commission,
So why should they go to your marriage bureau
And fall in with their conjuring tricks,
And pay them something like twenty-five quid
When they can do it themselves for nix.*

ALF. J. WILTSHIRE.

Norbury, S.W.16.

DEAR EDITOR,

Amongst the group of war pensioners known as the totally disabled, there are many included because of the special character of their injury. The totally blind come into this category and help to form the outer border of this group. It is agreed that no one can be more than 100% disabled, and therefore it seems to me wrong that these borderline cases should be used as the standard for 100% basic pensions.

The structure of the pensions scheme was compounded many years ago by actuaries whose sole purpose was to save the Treasury as much money as possible, and they used the devilishly ingenious scheme of making the borderline cases the 100% and the real 100% disabled had their pensions made up by graded allowances. This was done simply to keep down payments to the vast majority of pensioners who are only partially disabled. Now Padre Nugee appears to believe that if you change the word allowances into 100% plus something or other, you change the character of the pension scheme. It is true that he also suggests consolidation, and I agree with him on that point, but only to establish the real 100% level.

Padre Nugee also states that you will not get rid of anomalies just by increasing the basic rate. That is true, but one must face reality and this form of increase does benefit proportionately all pensioners. Finally, may I point out that any Parliament who had a mind to take away allowances that had been granted would not find it very difficult to reduce consolidated pensions if ever they were of a mind to do so.

Yours sincerely,

EDGAR R. ETTRIDGE.

Addiscombe.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was very interested in Mr. Nugee's letter in the September issue, particularly with regard to the suggestion that appropriate cases should be assessed at 100% "plus."

Whilst endorsing this, I would also like to suggest that the pensions generally should be increased with advancing years—although one fully sympathises with the need for an increase in the basic pensions, I personally feel that there is just as great a need for an increase in the percentage as the pensioner gets older, because with advancing years his disability is apt to react on his earning capacity to a serious extent.

I think it would be wrong, even if the country could afford it, to increase the basic pension too much, for particularly with the young pensioner, that might take away his incentive to earn a living in spite of his disability, which to my mind is all important, and in fact I would go so far as to say that the object of every pensioner should be to try and earn sufficient to leave him independent of his pension, thus furthering his rehabilitation and independence.

Briefly, I would suggest that pensions might be based somewhat on the following broad principles:

1. A 100% "plus" basis should apply to appropriate multiple injury cases—those of us who have been lucky enough to lose, say, only two limbs are indeed in a fortunate position compared with those who have lost sight as well as a limb or limbs, and some of us indeed feel very uncomfortable about the favourable position in which we are placed from a pension aspect as compared with our less fortunate friends.
2. The Constant Attendance and Comfort Allowance are not really pensions but represent the partial reimbursement of the expense to which certain cases of disability are put because of their handicap, or, alternatively, the deprivation of the earning capacity of the family in cases where one member of it devotes his or her time to looking after the pensioner.

They should not therefore be taken into account in assessing the pension as such.

3. I submit that all appropriate cases should have their percentage of disability reviewed and increased with advancing years.

If, say, a man with the loss of a limb is assessed at 50% whilst he is young, that might well be an adequate percentage for some years, but later in life it would generally be found that he is unable to compete so successfully with his more able-bodied friends and thus what might have been a fair assessment at 50% some years ago, should be increased to help him over the later years of his life.

It may well be wise to be "cruel to be kind" to those who are young, and to give them a pension which provides bread and a thin coating of margarine, leaving them to earn their butter and jam for the good of their soul, but surely their efforts should be rewarded in later years when their disability may well press on them so much more heavily.

Finally, I fully agree with Mr. Nugee that pensions should not be reduced by reference to earning capacity.

Yours faithfully,

M. SPENCER-ELL.

Henley-on-Thames.

DEAR EDITOR,

I wonder how many St. Dunstaners have had the experience I have had in trying to get someone to take me for a walk once or twice a week. I like walking and while I was training at Ovingdean I applied for a guide dog but was told I was too old, although why should a man of sixty or over, who is active, not be allowed a dog? The amazing part of it is that if you had a guide dog previously to reaching the age limit, you may get one, but if you, like myself, lose your little sight you did have late in life, with regard to getting a guide dog you are just unlucky. However, to get down to details of my own experience.

I finished my training at Ovingdean about six years ago and my welfare visitor Miss E. Pease, wrote to the local Red Cross Society and their representative came to see me and enquired when I would require to go out. I told her that as I was my own boss, I would make my time suit the time of the person willing to take me. Nothing could be clearer than that. She told me she would bring the matter before the British Legion Benevolent meeting. This she did, but with no result.

Then a friend of mine knew a Rotarian friend and the friend wrote to the secretary

of the local Club with the result that I was taken to the local Rotarian's lunch, introduced to the secretary, told them what I wanted—and heard no more.

Then someone got in touch with Toc H. I had a visit from the jobmaster who also asked me when I would want to go out. I told him, too, that I would make my time suit the time of whoever was good enough to take me out. I have now lost all faith in human nature as that was the last I heard of that.

Various St. Dunstaners have said, "Never trouble anyone," but I personally will not walk about in a town alone. I do not think the risk is worth while so I simply stay in. My wife cannot walk a lot as she suffers from arthritis.

Mr. Wally Thomas's letter shows the danger of a blind man travelling alone. Although I travel alone, I do not like doing it, and now that the railways are nationalised all registered blind persons should be allowed two tickets for the price of one so that he or she can always have an escort.

Yours sincerely,

Great Yarmouth.

E. B. OXBOROUGH.

DEAR EDITOR,

Pardon me while I give a call. Hallo, St. Dunstan's. Wakey! wakey! This is "Simple Dimples" calling from Brighton. I have laid an egg, I cried, not an 'orse. It may be due to the proximity of Ovingdean that has produced West House, for I have heard of the great efforts that are made at Ovingdean to help the fellows find new outlets for their pent-up energies.

Nearly ten years ago—April, 1945—before the bells of victory pealed throughout the land, I became a casualty that has proven a life sentence. The vexatious question of a lifetime is sorting itself—*cui bono?* meaning "to what purpose?" I accepted the challenge and said to myself I would find the answer to this question, the meaning of life, cost what it may.

I metaphorically threw all my interests into the dustbin and concentrated for nearly ten years. The way has been long, dark and painful, but at last I am coming out into the clear, living for the first time in my life with the icy cold hand of frustration lifted and, I think, cast off for good, for I have come to realise that the answer to this question is a truth that was there all the time, but I was unable to see it. It is

that God has the perfect answer to his critics, namely, the last word—"For man may destroy but God restores"—for I believe in the resurrection of the body and life ever after, amen.

To any St. Dunstaners who have been plagued by the same question, I recommend a little book as the first step in the right direction; the name of the book is "A Map of Life," by F. J. Sheed. The book is available in braille and it would give anyone who chooses to read it furiously to think.

Yours sincerely,

West House, Brighton. B. J. BUTLER.

DEAR EDITOR,

Recently it was necessary that I should enter hospital and like most people, I began to wonder what it would be like and what sort of companions I should have. However, my fears were soon allayed. To my delight I found myself in a small but airy ward containing only six beds and these were occupied by men of my own decade and all of them ex-servicemen—1914-18 vintage. The smallness of the ward made conversation easy and we all had something in common. One was my co-entrant, Mr. Seymour-Lindsay, and if any readers are interested in visiting old churches, abbeys, etc., they may have had pointed out to them his art. Mr. Seymour-Lindsay has designed the ironwork for altar rails, tombs and chapels in most of the bigger and older churches in the country.

The other occupants of the ward were very interested in the work of St. Dunstan's and after my operation one of my fellow patients came over to chat, but let him tell his own story. He is Major G. King, M.C., and he writes to me as follows:

"As promised, here is a letter which I have divided into two parts; one referring to my brief meetings with Major Bridges in Malaya and the other with details of my own experience.

I first met Major Bridges at a dinner party at one of the big hotels in Kuala Lumpur where we were fellow guests of the Chief Social Welfare Officer of the Federation of Malaya. Watching him during the evening it was indeed hard to realise his handicap. During the months that followed I heard much of his work in connection with the Welfare of the Blind in Malaya, but I did not meet him again till the beginning of 1952 when I went down to Kuala Lumpur to attend a big

conference of all the Probation Officers in Malaya.

One of the items of the Conference was an address by Major Bridges. He spoke for about half an hour, easily and smoothly, giving us a mass of statistics and figures, all from memory. It was a masterpiece from start to finish. . . . we were all left with the vivid impression of being addressed by a man who knew his job from A to Z. In a country where blindness is taken so much for granted, as it is in all Asian countries, his task must have been made so much more difficult than if it had been in this country, but one heard nothing but praise on all sides for the way in which he was getting things done.

"As for myself, my life has been roughly divided into two parts, about eighteen years of professional acting and broadcasting, and about fourteen years commissioned military service in both world wars. In addition to quite a number of broadcasts for the B.B.C. and Radio Luxembourg, I was employed by Radio Malaya throughout the whole of 1948, taking part in all their plays and having for some months my own programme of poetry reading, of which I still have some recordings."

I am sure that we all wish Major Ronald Bridges the success he deserves in his work in Malaya.

Yours sincerely,

H. CRABTREE.

Balaklava, October 25th, 1854

George Fallowfield reminds us that it is one hundred years since the famous Charge of the Light Brigade and therefore one hundred years since the first woman went on to the battlefield to dress the wounds of the fallen.

At this time then, we pay tribute to the memory of Florence Nightingale, and to those members of the nursing services to whom St. Dunstaners particularly owe so much.

★ ★ ★

In "Braille Sports Report," Dixie Dean's story has been appearing and in it he tells of the motor-cycling accident which almost put him out of football. He did go back, "thanks," he says, "to the training staff and to old Harry Cook." Harry was of course, masseur to Everton F.C. in those days.

An Angle on Conscription of the Future

Through the centuries nations have wasted the flower of their youth on the sport of bloody warfare, which has seemed through history to be the most important occupation of mankind. The introduction of conscription in this twentieth century, to forcibly man the armed services with precious, adolescent man-power, endorses that historical trend and fatuously persists in a wastage, we, of all nations, cannot afford.

Conditions are rapidly changing, and every mother's son and daughter born on this island will be called upon to contribute in the future at least 50 to 100 years directly or indirectly productive work, to keep a population with an average age close to 70 from starvation and disintegration.

It appears that 30 or 40 years from now expectation of life will be in the region of 125 years so that it is going to be fair to assume that conscription should then or before then apply to whippersnappers of 60 instead of the present 18. (Recruits going literally bald-headed for sergeant-majors—that'll be the day!).

Fantastic as the picture is at first sight, there are three very distinct advantages that spring to mind immediately and quite probably there are many more. The youth will be putting in 40 or more years of good work before being offered up for cannon fodder; some of the gentlemen who make any declaration of war will have the deterrent of knowing themselves due for conscription; in any case, the makers of the weapons will have to be far more numerous and important than the fighting men in any war prior to the next Ice Age.

Some may say that at 60 a conscript would be no good, but what a man can do when he is compelled is exactly what makes truth stranger than fiction.

G. A. P.

Miss M. Davies

Confusion has arisen with regard to the address of our Northern Area Welfare Visitor, Miss M. Davies. All correspondence for Miss Davies should be addressed to her at 12 Ruskin Street, Briton Ferry, Neath, Glam.

★ ★ ★

"What you do speaks so loud that I cannot hear what you say."—EMERSON.

Ruby Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Evans, of Erdington, Birmingham, who celebrated their 40th anniversary on September 28th, and congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. J. Blakeley, of Liverpool, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding on October 24th.

Silver Wedding

Congratulations, too, to Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Gale, of Grays, whose Silver Wedding was on September 30th.

Correction

Jack Mahoney's regiment was given wrongly in the list of Old Contemptibles last month as "Ulster Rifles." Our St. Dunstaner served in the 1/9th London Regiment, Queen Victoria Rifles, and we apologise. Our records are being amended.

Brighton and District Club

The above Club meets in the Winter Gardens, St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., when the usual games of dominoes, darts, cribbage and whist are played.

During the winter months those interested in bowls can enjoy this game between the hours of 10.30 and 12.30 every Tuesday morning at the "King Alfred," on the Hove front.

All those interested please come along.

An average of twelve St. Dunstaners have, during the greater part of the summer, met every Tuesday morning at St. Ann's Well Gardens, Hove, to play bowls on the outdoor rinks, and have enjoyed the coaching and delightful friendship of Messrs. Finlay, Trottmann, Yeomanson and their many bowling associates.

The Bowls Section had a most enjoyable outing to Seaford, when we were entertained by the Crouch Green Bowling Club, assisted by the Seaford Detachment of the Red Cross, who provided an excellent tea, and the Seaford Rotary Club, who kept the smokers constantly supplied with cigarettes. We also had a very happy outing to the Derby, and on August 26th a coachload, plus overflow, had an outing to Goudhurst, Kent. This was a most enjoyable day, especially as it was a real summer day.

FRANK A. RHODES.

Forty Years

At the end of July, 1914, my wife and I and our little girl, Evelyn, aged four, were spending a holiday in Scarborough. I had a business in Leeds and the reason for the holiday was that we were expecting another happy event in October.

On the 2nd August, we went to the Pier Theatre and I well remember that the top of the bill was "Elroy, the Armless Wonder." The act proved to be the only one that interested me in what was a very large programme. Elroy had been born without arms; was slightly over 6ft., a wonderful showman, and amazingly athletic. He painted, he played the piano and a cornet; drew a cork from a bottle; used a rifle, scoring 5 bulls in 5 shots; he helped himself to a cigarette from a box on a table, using a match from a box like any other individual. All this with his feet, on which he wore something resembling mittens. When he wanted to carry a chair from one place to another (because, of course, he did everything sitting), he simply lifted the chair at the back, as one might with a hand, and hopped to where he wanted to place the chair. He did everything so naturally and made it all look so easy.

The following morning my wife and I were sitting in the lounge of the hotel when Elroy walked in and sat at an adjacent table. I watched his every move and have never forgotten how naturally he sat at the table. When the waiter appeared we heard him order a tankard of beer. As the waiter was returning with the order, Elroy slipped off his right shoe and from a small pocket in that shoe he withdrew a coin and it was on the table as the tankard was being placed before him. The waiter gave change and Elroy, leaving a couple of coppers which the waiter took as his tip, returned the change to the purse in the sole of his shoe. He took that tankard from a sitting position as normally as a chap with arms. I did not try to get into conversation with him.

The following day notices appeared on the lifeboat house, municipal buildings, post office, etc., recalling all reservists and as I happened to be in this category, I sent my wife and daughter home to Leeds and went to Newcastle to rejoin my regiment.

On the 19th September, 1914, I was wounded, and was fortunate enough to

be on sick leave on the 13th October when the happy event before-mentioned occurred. My business, of course, was closed but so many things were happening in France that there was not any time to worry about the mere loss of a business.

On the 4th September, 1916, after the explosion in which I lost my sight and both hands, I overheard the doctors discussing me and one said the lowest estimate he could put on the number of wounds was five hundred. I spent the next day thinking of Elroy, the Armless Wonder, and I don't ever remember thinking that I would not be able to do anything—on the contrary I made up my mind from the beginning that I was going to do things now; how, I didn't know, but of course then I was hardly in a position to start. A letter from Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., telling me he was waiting for me at St. Dunstan's as soon as I was able to travel, confirmed my determination to live, and like it.

On my first meeting with Sir Arthur, in St. Mark's Hospital, I knew I would go places. He left me saying, "You are going to do things. You are going to surprise everybody, but the one you are going to surprise most is yourself." That confirmed everything I had thought and gave me a line to work on. I accepted those words as a challenge, without saying anything to anybody, and resolved to surprise everybody.

12th August, 1917 two ribs out (no relation to Adam.)

June, 1918, my last operation.

Am now in my 37th year as a St. Dunstan's propagandist and have addressed meetings all over Britain, the United States and Canada, and have discussed St. Dunstan's in Egypt and many parts of the Continent of Europe. I am fitter than I could ever have dreamt of being and on looking back over the last forty years, I do not hesitate to say that my crossroads were represented by the meeting with Sir Arthur Pearson, whose example and guidance proved the inspiration that put me on the right road.

A. M. NICHOLS.

[Many St. Dunstaners may recall a similar experience and will endorse what Sergeant Nichols has said. Some may like to tell us how they, too, reached the crossroads of their lives. We would like to hear their stories.—Ed.]

On My Way

After being fitted with my new plastic eyes in 1948, we were returning to Victoria. Fred, the orderly, was asked how our eyes looked. After telling us to look up, look down, look right, look left, he informed me that mine were all right but the right eye was not working in agreement with the left. This was quite understandable as I had had my right eye excised only one month previous to my fitting. Fred advised me to exercise the muscle of my right eye by moving it as much as possible. Then I went back to Ovingdean to finish my holiday. On the following Monday, in the company of Jacky Back, I returned to the West Country. Fred again met us at Victoria and took us across to Paddington where Jacky was to meet his wife. Fred said to me, "Well, Gen, old boy, you have not been exercising that right eye of yours; it's still stiff. Look up, look down, look right, look left. Keep on exercising while I go and look for Mrs. Back. Stay just where you are and don't move." Jacky and I stood there motionless, I rolling my eyes in the manner suggested. All of a sudden I received a terrific wallop from someone's suitcase and the voice of a perfect lady came out of the shadows to me. "Git aht of it," the voice said, "standing there cawping and rolling your eyes all over the place. Are you gone potty?" E. H. NORTH. *Taunton*.

I like the Ovingdean packed luncheon when travelling home but on one occasion recently I decided to have luncheon in the dining car to pass away time. I shuffled along to the Restaurant Car where the waiter persuaded me to have turbot instead of the meat course. I said I was afraid of the bones although I liked fish. Along came the soup, then the fish, and the waiter proceeded to take out the bones, having done so he remarked, "There's not much fish there for a man. I'll fetch another portion." So off he went whilst I sharpened my appetite with a Worthington. My fish portion augmented and cleaned of bones, I settled down to a "man's meal," complete with cheese and biscuits and coffee. Eventually the cashier came along but instead of presenting me with a bill for about 8s. 6d., he said, "It's your lucky day to-day, sir." "Why?" said I. "Well," came the reply, "the gentleman who sat with the lady on the

opposite table asked for your bill and paid it." I offered a gratuity but even that was refused.

Imagine how surprised and rather embarrassed I was for neither the lady nor the gentleman spoke to me and had left their seats before I realised what had happened. I could not even thank them. *Ashton-in-Makerfield*. J. SHAW.

On my way from Manchester No. 2 General Hospital in October, 1918, for transfer to St. Mark's, Chelsea, there was not a seat to be found on the train, which also had two special Pullmans for the "Maid of the Mountains" theatrical company. As we stood on the platform, while the stationmaster himself looked for a seat, a lady asked where we were going. My orderly explained that I was being transferred to St. Mark's for entry into St. Dunstan's. "Bring the poor lad in with us," I heard the lady say as the stationmaster said we would have to wait until another coach was attached. The lady was the famous José Collins, at whose table I sat and conversed and had the infinite pleasure of enjoying a first-class luncheon with a bottle of beer, at which my orderly turned a blind eye. On reaching London the orderly had two Bradburys handed to him which I was supposed to have "won," as one of the company playing cards at the opposite table said he had been playing for me. It is one journey I shall never forget.

Castle Cary.

A. J. RADFORD.

As I rode down from London town in coach as red as red could be,

A lady entered with small son, the small boy aside of me.

We sat in silence for a while till I did feel the small eyes stare,

I turned to him as though to stare although my eyes near sightless be.

And then the questions did begin, and when I answered 'nother came.

The mother then with stern rebuke forbade him so to question me,

But I assured her 'twas "All right" and then the questions came apace,

Some of them amused me while other were perplexing.

And so we talked small boy and I as I my brains were raking.

And as I neared my journey's end, with plaintive voice he said to me

"I wish you could go farther," and added words of thankfulness.

I added my deep thanks to him and wished it happened more often.

Shatterling, nr. Canterbury.

W. C. HILLS.

Ovingdean Notes

With the Autumn Training Term only two weeks old we were delighted to welcome Sir Ian and Lady Fraser at Ovingdean in early September. The Chairman met new trainees only recently arrived here and then he and Lady Fraser made a tour of the training departments.

The number of men here on holiday during this month appears to have been a little higher than usual this year. Perhaps everyone has been waiting throughout the appalling summer for a break in the weather, and, indeed those who came to Brighton for the second half of the month have fared fairly well for there have been some really lovely days. The coach drives to such places as Rustington, Arundel and Alfriston have been very popular and as the evenings were longer the indoor entertainments have been increased here. Sunday evening programmes have been well attended and during the month we had two play readings by the Staff and a concert at which Professor Michaeli made a welcome return to give a piano recital. St. Dunstaner Joe Doubler from Hove also took part, and his accompanist was Miss Chidley.

Towards the end of the month Mr. Cheeseman organised another of his regular dances for St. Dunstaners, at the "Arlington," which are always so popular.

Now, with the beginning of Autumn we shall be having several "special week-ends" and the first of these took place here during the last week-end of September when we welcomed those St. Dunstaners who came as contestants for the Chess Week-end, which is reported below. The Physiotherapy Conference and the 1954 Bridge Tournament Week-end are both to follow later in the year.

The Chess Week-end—Ovingdean

There was a strange stillness in the Winter Garden during the last week-end in September, only a faint rattling sound could be heard, and an occasional low muttering! Twelve heads were bowed over the tables—what was happening here as the wind hurled itself against the windows? Was it a gathering for thought and contemplation, or was it a meeting of a Secret Society?? No—nothing so deep or so mysterious! It was just the Annual Chess Week-end and, strange as it may seem, these people were enjoying themselves

The conspirators were Messrs. B. Evans,

F. Parker, W. Kirkbright, F. Taylor, W. Hammett, W. Hodder, G. Fallowfield, R. Armstrong, R. Freer, J. Scott, W. Muggeridge and J. Campbell.

It was good to meet old friends again and to meet new ones. The games were well fought out, and were played in a sporting spirit. The decisions of the adjudicators were accepted without question, although their task was not always easy.

The Cup was won by Frank Parker after a stern struggle with Bob Evans in the Final; while the Consolation prize went to Bill Hodder, who had a long and vigorous game with Ron Freer in the final of that section. In the semi-final of the Cup, Parker had a "bye" but Evans had a 3½ hour game with Hammett which had to be adjudicated. Bob Evans had just enough superiority to obtain the verdict. Better luck next time, Hammett.

As usual the Brighton Schoolboys turned up and many friendly games were played with them. These Sussex boys are really "hot stuff" and gave our chaps plenty to think about.

It was unfortunate that some of the games had to be decided by the toss of a coin, owing to lack of time for the competitions. The unlucky ones here were Messrs. Hodder, Kirkbright and Campbell.

The prizes were presented by Sir Clarence Sadd who is Chairman of the Sussex Chess Association. Commandant and Matron were also present. Sir Clarence made a short but very interesting speech in which he mentioned some of the personalities in the Chess World through the ages. He referred to Cicero, King Canute, Charlemagne and various other notabilities and said that many Popes were devotees of this ancient game.

After the presentation of the prizes, Sir Clarence was introduced to all the players, and had a friendly word with each one. We were very pleased to have him with us, and hope that he will come again.

I cannot conclude this account without mentioning the kindness and patience of Miss Carlton. I can assure her that we all appreciate her all-out efforts to make this week-end a happy and enjoyable occasion, and she can rest assured that her efforts were crowned with success. A vote of thanks to her was proposed by Bob Evans and carried with acclamation. We all wish you a happy holiday, Miss Carlton.

C. KELK.

Young St. Dunstaners

We have heard with deep regret that the husband of A. W. Back's youngest daughter (Shaldon, near Teignmouth), met with a fatal accident at work and was electrocuted.

Marriages

On September 11th, Herbert Jarman (Southbourne, Bournemouth) to Miss Cicely Partridge.

On September 25th, Audrey Sayers (Northampton) to Anthony John Robbins.

On October 16th, Vincent Healey (Bradford) to Miss Brenda Bramley.

On October 16th, Geoffrey Webster (Forest Hill), to Miss Maureen Collin.

They Sail to the Loneliest Island

The following was taken from the *Bournemouth Times* of September 24th, 1954:

"A young Bournemouth doctor, his wife and two children sailed yesterday for two years on the loneliest inhabited island in the world.

Dr. Kenneth Fawcett, 31 year old son of Mr. C. J. R. Fawcett, the physiotherapist who lost his sight in the 1914-1918 war, has obtained a Colonial Office appointment as medical officer on Tristan Da Cunha.

A volcanic island in the South Atlantic, Tristan da Cunha is named after the Portuguese admiral who discovered it. With its peak of rock rising 7,000 ft. above the sea, and eight miles across, it lies 2,000 miles from the mainland—the Cape of Good Hope—and 1,500 miles from St. Helena.

Mrs. Fawcett was as eager to go as her husband. There will be no education problem with the children. They will be back in this country when they reach school age.

Their voyage will take about a month.

Dr. Fawcett is the second M.O.H. for Tristan Da Cunha. Before his appointment he was in general practice as an assistant in Cambridgeshire."

Miss Gertrude Witherby

Early St. Dunstaners will hear with deep regret of the death of Miss Gertrude Witherby who for many years, both during and after the First World War, was head of the Netting Room. Miss Witherby was a good friend of all blinded soldiers but particularly will be remembered with affection by those who took netting and wool-rugs. She died at her home in London on July 3rd.

Births

CHAPPELL.—To the wife of A. T. Chappell, of Epping, on September 26th, a son—Crispin David.

EDWARDS.—To Dorothy Edwards, of Yeovil, on October 6th, a son—David William.

FILBY.—On October 8th, to the wife of W. E. Filby, of Streatham, a son—Paul.

HOWELL.—On September 29th, to the wife of A. Howell, of Colindale, a son—Terence.

WALTON.—On September 17th, to the wife of J. B. Walton, of Slade Green, a daughter—Jacqueline Marie.

WATERS.—On September 4th, to the wife of A. Waters, of Needham, Norfolk, a daughter—Suzanne.

Marriage

INGREY—LEWIS.—On September 18th, B. Ingrey, of Beddington, to Mrs. Lewis.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out this month to the following:—

BARNES.—To W. Barnes, of Bradford, whose wife died on October 1st, after great suffering.

CARNEY.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Carney, of Dunstable, in the loss of their second son, Allan, in a road accident. He was 16.

DONNELLY.—To T. J. Donnelly, of Edmon-ton, whose mother has died suddenly in Ireland.

ELSEY.—To H. Elsey, of Beccles, whose wife died on October 3rd, after a long illness.

FARNAN.—To H. Farnan, of Sale, whose younger brother has been killed in a road accident.

HEMSWORTH.—To F. Hemsworth, of Doncaster, whose sister has died in hospital following an emergency operation.

MILLER.—To H. S. Miller, of Skegness, who lost his wife on October 13th.

MUDGE.—To J. Mudge, of Tottenham, whose father died on September 15th, in his 84th year.

STOTT.—To D. Stott, one of our trainees, whose sister died shortly after he was recalled home.

WALDRON.—To E. Waldron, of Whixall, Whitchurch, whose wife died on September 26th. She had had a serious operation from which it was hoped she had made a good recovery.

WEBBER.—To L. A. Webber, of Tewkesbury, whose mother died on September 22nd following a serious operation.

"In Memory"

Private Rufus Shaw, M.M., 1st Royal Dragoon Guards

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Rufus Shaw, of Rossendale, in his sixty-second year. He enlisted in 1914 and was wounded at Ypres in May, 1915, being awarded the Military Medal. He came to St. Dunstan's that year and trained in mat-making and netting. Owing to very poor health, however, he was never able to do much work and during the last few years his condition had deteriorated. He entered hospital in June of this year, but was quickly discharged. His death, therefore, on September 22nd, was a great shock to all.

Our sincere sympathy is offered to his widow and family.

Private Arthur William Cooke, Royal Artillery

With deep regret we record the death of A. W. Cooke, of Inwood, near Rugby. He was fifty-six. He enlisted in 1913 and was discharged in 1918, having been wounded the previous year, but it was not until 1950 that he came to St. Dunstan's. He trained as a wool-rug maker, but his health, never good, remained poor and in the autumn of 1952 he went to West House.

His death took place suddenly on September 12th, whilst he was on holiday at Bristol.

The funeral took place at Brighton Cemetery and a number of St. Dunstan's comrades, members of the staff, and escorts, were present.

To his wife and family our deep sympathy is extended.

Private Charles Ernest Porter, 2/4th King's Own Liverpool Regt.

We record with deep regret the death of C. E. Porter, of Deepdale, Preston, in his sixty-ninth year.

He came to St. Dunstan's immediately upon his discharge in 1918, following two years' service, and he trained in boot-repairing and netting, but for the last two years his health had not been good. Nevertheless, his death on September 20th was very sudden, coming after only two days' serious illness.

The funeral took place at Leyland, his old home town, near Preston.

He leaves a widow and our deep sympathy goes to her and to his relatives.

Private Alphonse Kenyon Knibbs, Royal Berkshire Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. K. Knibbs, of St. Thomas, Exeter. He was seventy-one.

He suffered mustard gas injuries in France in 1917 and, his sight gradually failing, he came to us in May, 1948. His state of health prevented him undertaking any training and this had slowly deteriorated, even in the time since his admission to St. Dunstan's. He died on October 3rd after a short illness.

He was taken in to St. Thomas' Church for a short service, followed by cremation at Plymouth; his ashes were scattered in the Garden of Remembrance, as he wished.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow and grown-up family.

Sergeant Thomas Edward Kenefick, 1/6th Yorkshire Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of T. E. Kenefick, of Brighton. He was nearly seventy.

Discharged from the Army in March, 1919, he was admitted to St. Dunstan's in November, 1936, and trained as a wool-rug maker. For some years, however, his health had been failing. He went this year to Yorkshire for a holiday, but he became worse; he was admitted to hospital and he died there on October 11th, three days later. He was buried on October 14th. Requiem Mass was celebrated at St. Mary's Church, Bradford.

Our very sincere sympathy goes out to Mrs. Kenefick.

Marion Smith, 35th Central Alberta Horse Regiment, Canadian Forces

We have learned with deep regret of the death of Marion Smith, of Quebec, which occurred suddenly on July 24th, after a heart attack.

He enlisted in 1914, in the Canadian Forces, and came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1918. He had previously been engaged in farming and ranching, but he trained as a masseur and secured his Medical Electricity examination before he left for Canada in 1920, having married Miss Elliot while over here. He returned for a visit four years later. For many years he had been employed at the Military Hospital, Montreal. We had heard little from him for a long time until he wrote contributing to the Percy Way Memorial Fund, and his wife tells us that he was taken ill shortly afterwards.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Smith and her son.

Private Henry Rolt, Royal Fusiliers

We record with deep regret the death of H. Rolt, a permanent resident of West House. He was seventy-nine.

He served in the 1914-1918 war and came to St. Dunstan's in November, 1939. He trained as a wool-rug maker. After the death of his wife in 1951 he was admitted to West House, but his health had been failing for some time.

Personal

Mrs. Cooke and family would like to express their deepest thanks for all the kindness shown to them by St. Dunstan's

and the staff at West House, and to say how sincerely grateful they are for their care of Arthur, and for making the last few years of his life so happy.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

ST. DUNSTANERS all over Britain took part in Armistice-tide celebrations. There was an Old Contemptibles' dinner at Ovingdean. There were many cases in which St. Dunstaners were invited to lay a wreath on the local War Memorial. There were those who joined in the national Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph with the Queen and the high dignitaries of State, and there were hundreds who just went to the local Service and took their part and remembered.

I had the honour to receive Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at the Royal Albert Hall, and Princess Margaret and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, and their young son, Prince William, were there also.

Present also were Sir Anthony and Lady Eden and Mr. and Mrs. Attlee, and a number of Cabinet Ministers and High Commissioners.

Lord Nuffield's Generous Gift

Lord Nuffield has made a gift of £50,000 to help the Royal National Institute for the Blind and St. Dunstan's to bring the Talking Book for the Blind system up to date, and at a recent luncheon in London he handed me, as Chairman of the Talking Book Committee since its inception, a cheque for this amount. With me at this unique function was Mr. Godfrey Robinson, C.B.E., the Chairman of the R.N.I.B., which, as you know administers the Library in co-operation with ourselves, Mr. Leslie Pinder, who is the Chief Engineer at Hinde Street, and other representatives both of the R.N.I.B. and St. Dunstan's.

Many of our older St. Dunstaners will remember that it was largely due to the help and encouragement given by Lord Nuffield that experiments in recording books on long playing records, which could be played back by the blind on specially adapted machines in their own homes, were first started in 1935, and including this present gift, this great benefactor has subscribed no less a total sum than £100,000 for this project. In view of this considerable help, I recommended to the Committee that the Library should in future be called the Nuffield Talking Book Library for the Blind and this will now be its title.

Many of you will not perhaps know that when the Talking Book scheme was in fact started some twenty years ago, the first private workshop was actually situated in the grounds of my house in Regent's Park, but the service was quickly built up and developed until, in 1938, new studios and research workshops were completed. In the early days of the last war, however, these studios received a direct hit during an air raid and suffered total loss of all equipment with the exception of one recording machine which was salvaged and reconditioned. This meant a move back to the original premises again, where the

unit carried on until the end of the war, before removing to the present headquarters in Hinde Street. Here it is that the recordings are made by well known B.B.C. announcers and readers, actors and actresses, and the research work carried out. To-day more than 4,000 blind people use the Talking Book Library, and there are over 600 titles, including autobiographies, novels, travel and detective fiction, and among the recent books issued, which you may have already "read," are "The Kon-Tiki Expedition," "Conquest of Everest," and Sir Winston Churchill's War Memoirs.

The Library itself is situated at Alperton, in Middlesex, and you will be interested to know that when the move was made there from Camden Town two years ago, the transfer involved the removal of over 100 tons of records, 6,000 feet of steel shelving, and the installation of a roller conveyor system for the daily handling of four tons of book containers. To-day some 140,000 volumes are handled by the Library every year, equalling 1,400,000 hours.

While all this great development in the Talking Book system as we know it to-day was going on, considerable research work was also being undertaken to see if it would be a good thing or not to substitute modern tape or film records for the conventional discs, and much progress has been made. But the Talking Book for the Blind Committee, after most careful study and on the best advice, has come to the conclusion that the significant development of the long-playing disc, which has so many obvious advantages for the blind over the tape method, has given this form of recording a new lease of life. Lord Nuffield, who has applied his own judgment as an engineer to this matter, concurs in this view, and has made this new special gift to enable the Committee to bring the machines in the hands of the blind and the records up-to-date so that they embody the latest high class commercial practice. It will not, however, mean an immediate reduction in the waiting list of those blind people not yet supplied with Talking Book machines, but by providing for more intensive research and the standardisation of the machine, it will undoubtedly speed up the rate of substantially reducing the list.

In time it should also improve the quality of the records themselves and save a great deal of wear and tear on the records due to old machines.

IAN FRASER.

Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Service

On the morning of Thursday, December 9th, the thirty-third anniversary of the death of our Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson, a party of St. Dunstaners will go from Headquarters to Hampstead Cemetery where a wreath will be placed upon Sir Arthur's grave.

Subscriptions of not more than one shilling towards the wreath should be sent to Mr. Askew, at 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1.

A Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, December 12th, at the Ovingdean Chapel, at 11.15 a.m. It will be a combined Service for St. Dunstaners at Ovingdean and West House, and for St. Dunstaners living in the Brighton area. Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., will read the Lesson at the Service, which will be conducted by the Rev. Andrew Nugee (St. Dunstaner) and the Rev. W. J. Taylor.

From All Quarters

W. R. Freeman, of Hanham, near Bristol, has won ten first prizes for his flowers this

summer, as well as the Silver Medal of the National Chrysanthemum Society and a number of other prizes and certificates.

★ ★ ★

There was almost a full-page article in "Reveille" on October 19th, by our St. Dunstaner, John Proctor, of Rottingdean. John wrote: "My own eyes were blown out by a bomb in the Aegean Islands in 1944. At the same time I lost my hands. It was my birthday. Now I have artificial hands. and for what I have lost I have gained much . . . there is no dirt, no ugliness in this world of mine . . . my world is more beautiful, because it has no flaws. If people were to go about blindfolded for a month they would realise what beauty they miss every day of their lives.

★ ★ ★

Alderman F. W. E. L'Estrange-Fawcett, who is Chairman of the Board of Governors of Stowmarket Grammar School, presided recently at the laying of the Foundation Stone of the new Grammar School by the Earl of Cranbrook, Chairman of East Suffolk County Council.

London Club Notes

Indoor Section

The prize-giving to the winners and runners-up in the Sir Arthur Pearson Competitions will be held in the Club on Saturday, December 4th, at 6.30 p.m. It is hoped that as many as possible will attend. The Club Christmas Party will be held in the Club on Tuesday, December 21st, at 7 p.m.

Come along and enjoy yourselves.

C. J. WALKER.

Bridge Section

On October 2nd a team of eight visited J. Lyons for a return Bridge match, and although the team was leading at the interval for tea our friends still retained their unbeaten record. Owing to the 'bus strike, the match against Mr. Head's team had to be cancelled.

There were nine tables at the third Bridge Drive of the year, which was held in the Club on Saturday, October 23rd. The prize winners were: 1st, S. Webster and Mr. A. Henry; 2nd, A. Wiltshire and Mrs. Wiltshire; 3rd, H. Cook and Miss Scott; nearest parity, R. Giffard and Mr. Head. A vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Carter, who officiated as M.C. and presented the prizes. On Saturday, October 30th, in a match of four-a-side against the Post Office our team were the losers.

Following up their first two wins in the L.B.H. League, our team were again the winners against the G.P.O. on October 15th, by 16 match points.

W. BISHOP, *Captain-Secretary*.

Outdoor Section

In a seven-a-side match, held over a 5-mile course at Regent's Park on Saturday, October 30th, the Metropolitan Police proved to be too strong for St. Dunstan's walkers. After a fairly fast start, the Police dominated the leading positions, but not to be outdone our St. Dunstaners fought on, moving steadily forward until after two miles Billy Miller took the lead, which he gradually increased and held to the finish. Unfortunately, we failed to break up a mid-field pack of policemen and so they beat us by 46 points to 62.

In the St. Dunstan's Sealed Handicap, held in conjunction with the match, Les Dennis, Chas. Stafford and Billy Miller were 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively, and Archie Brown fastest loser. A fourth prize, kindly donated by Archie Brown,

was presented to Pat Cryan, who was fourth in the handicap. Mr. Curtis, Hon. Secretary of the Stock Exchange Athletic Club (Walking Section), started the race and presented the prizes to the winners at the Club, and also St. Dunstan's certificates to our five members who took part in the Stock Exchange London to Brighton race in May. In a short speech that followed, Mr. Curtis extended an invitation to St. Dunstaners to take part in all future Stock Exchange London to Brighton races.

BILLY MILLER.

St. Dunstan's Five Mile Sealed Handicap and Match with Metropolitan Police

Regent's Park, Saturday, 30th October, 1954					
Order of Finish	Act, Time	H'p. All.	H'p. All.	Pos. in H'cp.	
1 W. Miller	St.D. 44-23	Scr.	44-23	3	
2 P.C. Eden	M.P. 45-44				
3 P.C. Monyard	M.P. 45-56				
4 A. Brown	St.D. 46-06	.50	45-16	5	
5 P. Cryan	St.D. 46-23	1-35	44-48	4	
6 P.C. Birbeck	M.P. 46-49				
7 P.C. Butt	M.P. 47-47				
8 P.C. Youldon	M.P. 47-47				
9 P.C. Freeman	M.P. 47-47				
10 T. Gaygan	St. D. 48-00	2-00	46-00	6	
11 P.C. Spencer	M.P. 48-46				
12 P.C. Stevenson	M.P. 48-48				
13 L. Dennis	St. D. 48-48	5-25	43-23	1	
14 C. Stafford	St.D. 49-16	4-55	44-21	2	
15 S. Tutton	St.D. 50-22	3-10	47-12	7	

Handicap

1st, L. Dennis
2nd, C. Stafford
3rd, W. Miller

Match

1st, Met. Police, 46 points
2nd, St. Dunstan's, 52 points

Fastest Loser, A. Brown.

Handicapper and Timekeeper, Mr. W. J. Harris.
Recorder, Mr. C. Harrison.

Rowing Machines and Stationary Bicycles

Will any St. Dunstaner who has a rowing machine or stationary bicycle which he no longer requires, please return it to Mr. Wills who will be glad to have it for the use of another St. Dunstaner.

Anagram Competition for the Blind

The Editor of "Competitors' Journal" is offering fifty prizes of five shillings each in a competition which is open to blind people only. The closing date is December 14th, and the Editor of the St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW will be very glad to send details to any St. Dunstaner who is interested. We understand that there will be other competitions to follow.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Mr. Oxborough's letter suggests that he has lost faith in himself and attributes the fault to the "human nature" of others.

I am a life-long member of the British Legion and a member of Toc H since it was first formed in this town, and while I agree that it is depressing to find that these two organisations, with the same motto, "Service not self," do not always jump to be of the particular kind of service you personally want, I think if Mr. Oxborough became an active member he would not lack a friend to take him for a walk. My own experience years ago was similar. I realised that my daughters were spreading their wings and no longer wanting to let me take them for a walk in order to go for a walk myself. So I devised the cunning scheme of always letting them walk on while I cautiously collected my landmarks along the lanes. Then one day I shoved off on my own to the consternation of all. Then I got me a dog, and have had one ever since, although too old for an official dog. To-day the generation of grandchildren are coming along who want to take me, though I want to take the dog.

Mr. Oxborough should have used the period before he went blind as he says, some few years ago, to have become absolutely familiar with his surroundings, and, above all, with the members of the Toc H, British Legion, and any other organisations whose comradeship he would now appreciate. Still, why not get somebody to take him around to the Toc H group and the Legion branch. Unless he is a full-fledged misanthrope, he will find the answer by personal contact. The more independent one is, and the more one mixes with the people of the sighted world on terms of equality, not merely seeking their assistance, the more one finds they want to assist so that sometimes it becomes even embarrassing. The Jobmaster has power to order a Toc H man to do the job, but who wants to go walking with an uncongenial companion who has been ordered to do it. I should say to Mr. Oxborough don't stay in but get out, even if you bark your shins and bump your nose; get out and when you barge into the Legion or Toc H, somebody will soon say "Can I help you?" Then you can say "Yes, please, I want to go for a walk. Coming?"

Yours faithfully,

A. J. RADFORD.

DEAR EDITOR,

I would like to comment upon the article, "Growing Older," in last month's REVIEW. My chief reason for doing so is that I happen to be the person responsible for the previous article, "Methods of Reading," which appeared a few months ago, and I wish to correct any misapprehension and emphasise that reference therein to touch-lip reading did not imply a new idea of mine. I simply stated certain facts about a young deaf-blind man who had achieved success in this method of reading, and I realised the importance of explaining that this young man is most careful to apply a germicide to his thumb before touching anyone's lips. I also said that it would be interesting to learn how many people were able to use this system of reading.

I agree that we should all make ourselves familiar with the manual language, but with so many who do not understand it, simple though it is, I feel that the ability to touch-lip read would brighten up many an hour which would otherwise be dull, since many persons would hesitate to use the block letter system and thus the situation arises in which the deaf-blind person is alone in his quiet world. I am no authority on these matters, but it is reasonable to believe that such persons as Mr. J. Hatton and Helen Keller have great advantages when they find people who do not use the manual language, but who don't mind a thumb being placed across their lips for the experience of "talking" to a deaf-blind person through his hand.

Yours sincerely,

JIM SHAW.

Ashton-in-Makerfield.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was very much interested in Sergeant Nichols' letter in your October number, as our experiences were broadly identical. I lost my hands and was blinded in March, 1915, and was probably the first man in our Forces to receive such injuries. Fortunately I recovered the sight in one eye, but the retina had been damaged so that only half of the eye was of any use to me. However, the vision that I had was so good that this fact was not discovered until about 1942, after I had earned my living as a sighted person for twenty-six years.

My "cross-roads" came when I was discharged in September, 1915, when I

was sent out into the world with a pension of 27s. per week and a couple of artificial limbs. I was not then regarded as a blind or semi-sighted person, nor, indeed, did I so regard myself. Although I must have lost many benefits through this, it was better for me in many ways as I was able to work out my own way of life and to invent, adapt, and improvise as I went along.

My first effort was made while still in hospital. Not wishing other people to write my love letters, I told a nurse to place a pencil down the folds of the bandage which was round my right stump.

Later on I wrote with my new limb, ate my food and did many other useful things. I went to Clark's College to learn book-keeping, paying the fees myself. I managed to get a job in the City writing out address cards at 25s. a week, until one of the ledger clerks left, when I was tried out on his work. As I proved that I could do this job I was given another pound a week.

I remained with this firm until 1919, when I joined the Civil Service as a temporary clerk. There were about twenty thousand ex-servicemen of all ranks who were on this temporary basis, and an examination was to be held for four thousand appointments to the Clerical Grade. I was told by the Commissioners that I could sit for the same but that no allowance could be made for my disability. It was a very proud day for me when the results came out and I was told that I was in the first four thousand. This meant that I had security, decent conditions of service and an increasing scale of pay. In October, 1940, came promotion to the Higher Clerical Grade and I had charge of an important Registry Section in the Ministry of Health with a staff of thirty.

In 1937 I was told that a cataract had developed in the damaged part of my retina and from that period my sight gradually deteriorated. I first had to give up watching cricket and, later on, football. Finally my work, in 1946. I had worked continuously for thirty years. Although bitterly disappointed, as I was due for further promotion to Staff Officer, I could not complain.

During the many years that I was in the Civil Service there was no special job worked out for me because of my disability; I took my place with the ordinary man. Self-consciousness was my greatest enemy. So far from parading my disabilities, I went

to extreme lengths to hide them.

I have written mostly about my work, but at the age of twenty I had to give up all forms of sport so my leisure hours were filled in by watching games. I took up Chess and became quite a useful player in the Civil Service League. Bridge and other card games came easily to me and so did billiards.

Much has been made of some of the showy things which can be done with artificial limbs, but my experience has shown me that it is the ordinary everyday things which are all-important, such as blowing one's nose, washing and dressing, going to the toilet unaided, taking something out of a pocket, or opening doors. There were no training schemes in those early days, in fact, there was no previous experience upon which to base such schemes so that a man in the position in which I found myself would indeed have a very poor sort of existence unless he was able to invent, adapt and improvise for himself.

Although forced to retire at the age of fifty-one, owing to the failure of my sight, I did not regard myself as a blind or semi-sighted person. Indeed when my wife used to assist me crossing roads, I would resent her help, but after some rather bad knocks and falls, I very wisely accepted such assistance.

It was not until 1951 that I joined St. Dunstan's, and then it was only through a chance meeting with an N.I.B. man. I fully realise what I owe to him and what I should have missed. But for that chance meeting I should have missed the wonderful help which I have had from St. Dunstan's. I should also not have had what I treasure most of all—the comradeship of some really great people. Truly there are many cross-roads in one's life.

Yours sincerely,

Hastings.

CHARLIE KELK.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was interested in Mr. W. Kerr's letter in the September issue of the REVIEW *re* his difficulty in reading the "National News Letter" after it has been through the post. My copy also often arrives so crushed as to be hardly readable. Can anything be done about packing it more securely?

Yours faithfully,

Belfast.

(Miss) E. L. WILSON.

[This complaint is being passed to the appropriate quarter. Ed.]

DEAR EDITOR,

I have an "enquiring mind" and an abiding interest in my fellow beings. This friendly curiosity has been directed in the past at my friends in the ranks of the 1914-18 heroes, and I must say I have learned much and benefited from the knowledge. It is this zest for enlightenment which drives me on to ask about a further aspect of the "Mons and Marne Merchants" which puzzles and intrigues me. I would like to know if they always display the same high spirits in their daily lives at home, as they never fail to do at Ovingdean, and, indeed, any other place where the company meets in the name of St. Dunstan's. I was struck by this alarming thought when I went into the lounge one morning to be deafened by a lusty chorus of "Pack up your Troubles." Bear in mind that it was at nine-thirty, and perhaps you will begin to realise why I silently cursed the parents of the pianist who was presumably playing the outraged instrument with his left elbow. It seems to me that the older men at Ovingdean are ready to burst into song at the slightest provocation. I am not presuming to criticise this commendable lightness of heart, but may I ask why it is so obviously exclusive to the men of the First War? A friend of mine has described it as a Peter Pan complex, and when I think back to certain gatherings of St. Dunstaners which take place annually, I can see that this describes exactly the middle-aged yet eternally boyish hearts. What other than a boyish heart could get men of fifty-five years or more to co-operate quite spontaneously in guessing games and in a remarkable affair which is known as the "St. Dunstan's March"? Like many other St. Dunstaners of my age, I am reluctant to join in for it occurs to me again and again that surely this kind of tea party entertainment is unheard of in any other community of full-grown men. Are we of the Second War a miserable lot or can we look forward to the Peter Pan existence which is enjoyed by the thirty-years-after brigade?

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE (Chase-me-Sister) ELLIS.

Liverpool.

Miss M. Davies

Our Northern Area Welfare Visitor, Miss M. Davies, who will be leaving England for the remainder of her leave early in December, sends Christmas greetings to all her men as she will not be able to send cards.

Liverpool Club Notes

We went to the Railway Hotel on Saturday, October 30th, in the knowledge that this was going to be an outing of equal success to the several enjoyed in earlier months. We were not expecting the pleasant weather which blessed the September trip to Llandudno, but if high spirits and cheerful faces were anything to go by, further satisfaction was guaranteed.

The party at Pleasington turned out to be a means of demonstrating certain qualities possessed by hosts and guests. The Club had its moment of glory by winning the Darts Tournament by six matches to three. Then, as though to prove that even our lady members could throw a pretty dart, Violet Formstone engaged Bob Britten in a riotous match, which she won. If we showed Mr. and Mrs. Hindle and their friends how to flick the little arrow, their turn came when we were treated to a lesson in hospitality. These good people never fail to worry the diet-conscious amongst us for, like all good Lancashire folk, they believe in wholesome grub and plenty of it. As our Secretary, T. Milner, said so appropriately, it was high time we returned some of this grand hospitality, and we would be delighted if our Pleasington friends joined our Christmas party in Liverpool on December 11th. This wish was preceded by a vote of thanks from our Chairman, J. C. Owen.

There was an atmosphere of "hearts and flowers" as the party drew to a reluctant close. We saluted the warm heartedness of Mr. and Mrs. Hindle by presenting them with a magnificent bunch of chrysanthemums, and the language of flowers was used again when Bob Britten handed a bouquet each to Violet Formstone and Elsie Aldred. A fitting conclusion to a very enjoyable few hours, and I hope I wasn't the only Club member who said goodbye with the presumptuous thought in my mind that maybe we will see more of the Railway Hotel, Pleasington. Maybe, too, we can take some new faces if we do go again. If any St. Dunstaners living in the Liverpool area has read this far and are not Club members, surely there is some interest, so why not come along and see for yourself that at least one Saturday afternoon a fortnight can be passed very happily. We meet every other Saturday, starting from December 4th.

"FRISBY."

Making Braille Books Smaller

Sir Ian's note in the June issue on this subject, and the letters which followed, have been brought to the notice of the Royal National Institute for the Blind, and the following letter has been received from Mr. Vernon Barlow, the Editor:

"Thank you for your letter and for drawing my attention to the various interesting remarks in the *ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW* about the question of condensed literature. The whole question of condensation is both absorbing and difficult.

We sometimes, of course, select the abridged version of a book, if an official one exists, that does not detract from the original in any way, but it is, of course, quite impossible for us to start cutting down books as though they were newspaper articles, because the whole question of copyright is at stake.

As you know, we publish here in large, intermediate and pocket size, the latter being approximately 10½ in. by 6½ in. I believe the National Library publish certain works of fiction in pocket size when it is possible to do so, and call them half-size volumes, they are, I believe, mostly juvenile books.

There would be no reason that I can see why some very short works of modern fiction, and others, should not be put into smaller volumes more suitable for transportation and reading when travelling.

Regarding "spiral wire" bound books, we gave up this method soon after the war because the firm could no longer supply us. But I am told we are now investigating the whole matter afresh.

Then there is the question of Solid Dot coming along in the near future, and this should make it possible to turn out books that are somewhat less cumbersome, even though the early hopes of greatly reducing the bulk no longer appear to be tenable.

How happy should we all be if Braille books could more nearly resemble printed ones where the size is concerned!

VERNON BARLOW."

Since Sir Ian's note in the *REVIEW*, it has been announced in the Press that the National Library for the Blind (Northern Branch) are producing pocket-sized books and we have borrowed specimen copies. The Librarian writes: "We have produced a large number in both Grade I and Grade II and the Grade II books have proved extremely popular."

The London Reunion

On October 20th, the London Reunion was held at the Windsor Room, Coventry Street Corner House. The London 'bus strike had obligingly ended the day before, but a breakdown on the Underground most unfortunately delayed several guests. However, they did arrive, which was the main thing, and soon the Reunion was well under way.

Sir Neville Pearson, our President, welcoming the guests, said there would be only one speech, and that a very short one. And it was. Sir Neville expressed Sir Ian's regret that he was not able to be with them because—a cryptic reason, said Sir Neville—he could not "find a pair" at the House of Commons. However, he hoped to join them later. Lady Fraser was already there with them, said Sir Neville, who ended by wishing every-one a very happy evening. (Applause). Later, announcing Sir Ian's arrival, Sir Neville said there would still be no speeches, but Sir Ian would be coming round to meet the guests, while the dancing went on. So the band played, some danced, there were many reunions, and altogether the evening was right up to St. Dunstan's high standard.

A New Magazine in Braille

The publishers of "World Christian Digest" have decided to issue a special Braille edition of this widely read journal. The first number will appear in January, 1955, and the magazine will thereafter be issued regularly each quarter.

The Digest, which is non-denominational in character, costs 5s. per annum, post free, and subscriptions should be sent direct to "World Christian Digest," 124 Gloucester Road, Kensington, London, S.W.7. A limited number of free copies will be made available to those unable to meet the cost of the annual subscription. When ordering, please specify that it is the Braille edition which is required.

Thirty Years Married

Mr. and Mrs. W. Nixon, of Totley Rise, Sheffield, celebrated their thirtieth wedding anniversary on October 1st.

Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. L. Sheridan, of Woolaston, near Stourbridge, had their Silver Wedding on October 5th; and Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Nixon, on October 25th.

The White Cane Club

The Kelowne Valley, Victoria, British Columbia, with its lakes and lovely scenery, is an attractive setting for the White Cane Club, of which our old friend, Perky Perkins, is one of the founder members.

In Canada, as in the United States of America, the reason for carrying a white stick or cane, to give it a more realistic and true name, is one of which one may be proud. For to carry a white cane across the Atlantic does mean that it is helping sighted people to realise not only that there are blind people in the world, but also to give them a simple opportunity of, maybe, helping the other fella across a wide main street.

But we don't think the foundation members of the Kelowne White Cane Club had this even remotely in mind, for the Club consists of blind people, their wives and their families. All sorts of handicrafts and hobbies are available, and the men bowl, hurl, fish and swim.

But our friend, Perky, continues his many other duties and works. He is well known for his lovely cabinet work—and one can well envisage many tourists to British Columbia taking away with them some of the well-remembered little boxes, lamps, etc., which Perky used to do so beautifully when over here. The added skill of the years which have elapsed will, one knows, have resulted in work of a very high standard.

But of the many things which Perky helps along the way is one quite unconnected with blindness or war disabilities. He is a member of a committee which, for the second year in succession, has raised enough money to buy an iron lung and to present it to a hospital in order to combat that dreadful scourge of our times, "Polio."

When one hears these things, even though the rain has been pouring down unceasingly for sixty-two hours, the morning is cold and drear, a shaft of sunshine strikes across the imagination—and one realises that somewhere a friend is helping others worse off than himself along life's rather stony highway.

★ ★ ★

A. E. Ratcliffe, of Chatham, read the Lesson at the Armistice Day Service at Chatham Naval Barracks.

Talking Book Library

October Observations

Five home-produced books of good variety and one imported travel book are added this month to the groaning shelves.

"Insurrection," by Liam O'Flaherty, reader Norman Shelley, is the heart-rending drama of Dublin, 1916, when a handful of men and women set off the Irish rebellion at half-cock, and made a shambles of Dublin. Heroism, tragedy, and boisterous Irish fun make the book entertaining. *Cat. No. 894.*

"Micah Clarke," by Arthur Conan Doyle, reader Andrew Timothy, is a fine adventure story of the Monmouth rebellion. The picture of the narrow puritanism of the majority is relived by a puckish old soldier of fortune and a cavalier or two. *Cat. No. 895.*

"Plain Murder," by C. S. Forester, reader Lionel Gamlin, is no mystery story but a story from the point of view of the ambitious advertising clerk who embarks on a career of perfect killing. The end is quite tidy and the book is short enough to be readable without too much repugnance. *Cat. No. 896.*

"The Golden Dagger," by E. R. Punshon, reader Lionel Marson, is a somewhat involved detective story with a fine crop of doubtful characters. The least savoury character is the body, knifed by the precious title trinket. Quite amusing, but quite long enough. *Cat. No. 899.*

"The Thief of Virtue," by Eden Philpotts, reader Stephen Jack, is a yarn of rural Devon which makes charming reading despite its leaning towards tragedy. An over-jolly farmer, deceived for most of his life, finally becomes undeceived and utterly distracted. Perhaps charming is the wrong word, but read it and judge. *Cat. No. 900.*

"Denmark is a Lovely Land," by Hudson Strode, reader Walter Gerard, must be a most enlivening book on Denmark for it has aroused in me, a most insular Englishman, the desire to go to the much despised "Continong"! Maybe the author wore rose-tinted spectacles, but he depicts an amazing number of attractive facets of Danish life. *Cat. No. 902.*

"NELSON."

Placement

R. H. Wharton, on assembly work with Messrs. Chrysler Dodge, Limited, of Kew.

Ovingdean Notes

Glancing back through our programme of entertainments at Ovingdean for the past few weeks, we seem to have been well served with such a variety that surely all tastes must have been satisfied.

One particularly enjoyable invitation was that extended to a party of men to attend a performance of "Showboat" given by the Worthing Operatic Society, followed by tea at the Pier Pavilion, Worthing. This was an extremely good performance and, of course, the fact that our party was afterwards the guests of the cast, and thus were able to meet them, added considerably to the pleasure of the afternoon.

At Ovingdean we have recently had two very good Concerts in the Sunday Evening series. The first was a programme of Gilbert & Sullivan Music, on October 24th, and the second was a visit from John Mantall (bass) who entertained us with a varied selection of songs. The rest of the Sunday programmes were made up with various play-readings by the Staff.

Space will not permit a great deal to be said about the party of "Old Contemptibles" who will be with us at Ovingdean from November 5th to 18th. Having formed a committee, with Sergeant Nichols as Chairman, they themselves decided upon the programme of the two weeks, which has left them with little spare time. In fact, they have been "on the go" almost unceasingly. At an "inaugural" dinner with the Deputy Mayor of Hove, Mr. Wills and Commandant as guests, the warriors got off to a good start with a most cheery evening. On November 7th, of course, they took part in the march to the Remembrance Service at the Dome, Brighton, in the company of members of the Brighton Old Contemptibles Association and other ex-Service groups.

The Brighton O.C.'s were also entertained at Ovingdean on Wednesday, November 10th, when a social evening was arranged. The domino tournament played that evening was won, or rather shared equally between Mr. Moeller (St. Dunstan's) and Messrs. Knight and Carpenter (of Brighton O.C. Association), each of these players having six wins.

On Thursday, November 11th, after having placed a wreath on the Brighton War Memorial (in the company of the Brighton O.C. Association) the evening

was spent at Ovingdean in another friendly domino tournament, this time with the Brighton District St. Dunstan's Club. In all 44 took part. The winner again was Mr. Moeller, with 7 wins, and runner-up Mr. Taylor, with 5 wins.

A Shooting Competition (Knock-out) was arranged also for the Old Contemptibles. Nine men entered for the contest. Mark Goundrill sportingly offered to drop out in order that we should have an even number of competitors. He said he did not feel he would be any good at shooting! However, it was decided that the range should be open for two practice sessions before the contest started, and this was done. In the first round of the competition only one man scored below 40 out of a possible 50. In the second the lowest score was 43. In the semi-finals Alexander knocked out Moeller by 48 plus to 46 plus, and Goundrill beat Arthur by 44 no plus to 37 no plus. This was really a very exciting contest and in the final Mark Goundrill became the winner, beating Alexander by 50 plus to 46 plus. Not at all bad going for one who did not think he'd be much good. Congratulations! This was good shooting, particularly from men who had not touched a rifle since their discharge from the Services.

Dances and Drives, a visit to the Races, an evening at West House, and a very good time at the "White Horse," at the invitation of Sgt. Nichols, all combined, we hope, to give them a thoroughly enjoyable holiday. We enjoyed having them at Ovingdean and hope they are glad they made the journey, some of them from quite far distances, to join together for this occasion.

Old Contemptibles Meet

At our winding-up meeting, the Chums suggested that a vote of thanks be rendered to the Commandant, Matron, and all the Staff at Ovingdean, who have been responsible for the outstanding success of our first get-together. The boys have really had a marvellous time, and are looking forward to the next one.

In the expressions of appreciation, Mr. Wills was not forgotten, and I would like to mention here how much we recognise the work he put into the organising of the transport arrangements and general correspondence involved.

Sir Ian Fraser sent the following message, which was read at the inaugural Dinner:—

"I am sure we would all like to thank Alan Nichols, a well-known and typical 'Old Contemptible,' for having suggested that this group of 1914 St. Dunstaners should come together on this occasion. Forty years is the greater part of a lifetime, and you must all look back with interest and pride to the stirring deeds during the first few months of the First World War, leading up to the famous retreat from Mons. Incidentally, I visited Mons with Lord Alexander two years ago to attend the unveiling of a memorial to the gallantry of those of your comrades who did not return.

The English have a curious sense of humour, and more than once a name given to them as a term of abuse or derision has been turned by them into a name which evokes thoughts of glory and fame. The name 'Old Contemptibles' is perhaps one of our best examples. The 'Quakers' is another.

Each of us did his best in the service in which he found himself at the time when he went to war, but there can hardly be anyone of my generation who does not wish that he had been a year or two older so that he might himself have been able to serve in those first few months and wear the Mons Star.

I hope you will all make it a regular routine to come to Ovingdean at this time of the year in the future, for the Old Contemptibles' gathering. I wish you all a good dinner, a happy holiday and the best of good luck.

IAN FRASER."

All St. Dunstaners who knew Miss Reynolds will be glad to know that she sent the following telegram:—

"Best wishes for a very happy fortnight to my friends of St. Dunstan's Old Contemptibles' reunion.—Miss REYNOLDS.

St Joseph's, 15 Church Street,
Edmonton, London, N.9."

To members absent because of illness I would like to say that we shall be celebrating our Summer holiday together in the last two weeks of August, 1955, and all the Chums are looking forward to you being on parade.

There may be many more old-timers holding the Mons Star who have been too modest to send in their names, so those of you who hold the Star inscribed "*August, 1914, November,*" please let Mr. Wills know,

because you are competitors for the Cup and Cabinet which will be presented to the last surviving Old Contemptible. And remember OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE, and still IT'S A LONG WAY TO TIPPERARY!

ALAN NICHOLS,
Chum Chair.

News From Australia Victorian Blinded Soldiers' Bowling Club

The visiting team for the Tour to Mildura, from October 19th to 26th, comprised six Rinks, including a sighted Skipper to each. Upon arrival, the visitors were met by S.B.A. President, Mr. Bert Swingler, the Vice-President, Royal Victorian Bowling Association, Mr. Les. Carbis, and the Merbien Representative, Mr. Rupert Hayes, and were tendered a Civic Reception at the Mildura Town Hall by His Worship the Mayor, Cr. J. Etherington, the Mayoress, Cr. Mrs. Etherington, Cr. Maxwell, the Town Clerk, Mr. Jim Downing, and many others of the Civic Centre. Speakers in response to the grand welcome extended to the party were Mr. Bert Swingler and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Blinded Soldiers B. A. respectively, Tom Melbourne and Joe Lynch.

On Friday morning the soldiers were shown over the new Pumping Station, on the *Murray* (by the "Billabong"), which was ably described by Messrs. Oram and Jim Madden, and were later entertained at morning tea, etc., by Mr. and Mrs. Messenger. In the evening, the male members of the party were guests of Mildura Sub-Branch, R.S.L., with Messrs. H. E. Dickenson (President), Charles Dodds (Secretary), and Noel Currie (Social Director) as chief hosts. Speakers on behalf of the guests were Les. Hoult (Manager) and Foster McConnell (Press Correspondent), who expressed warmest thanks to the Sub-Branch generally, and Joe Lynch and fellow bowlers toasted "Jerry" Dickenson.

During the Saturday morning, time was devoted to the laying of a wreath by Tom Melbourne "In Memory of Fallen Comrades." This ceremony was held at the Cenotaph; R. S. L. Rooms and Joe Lynch, Federal President, Blinded Soldiers, delivered an Address. "Lest we forget."

In the evening, the Sunraysia B.A. gave a dinner in honour of the visiting party, and speeches of welcome were given by President Swingler, Secretary Roy Kauffman,

and Mr. Les. Carbis. Tom Melbourne and Joe Lynch responded. Mrs. Melbourne spoke in happy terms in response to a toast to "The Ladies," and Skipper Bob Rouch was likewise heard to advantage in his response to a toast to "The Skippers," Norm. Fraser, Sim. Jacobs, Lemon Allchin, Harry Hooper, Bob Rouch, Joe Tully and Rupert Hayes. Vocal items by Mr. Madden—to his own accompanying, elocution by Bill Clifton, and music by Comedian Hodge Power were also features of this very happy evening.

The blinded men played matches against the following: Merbien, Red Cliffs, Mildura, Workingmen's, Wentworth (over the River), Sunraysia and Irymple. The B.S. lost in the majority of cases above mentioned, but claim that they gained much in fellowship and experience.

The men displaying best ability were: Gabe Aarons (as usual), Eric Drew, Elmer Glew, Tom Melbourne, Fred Kilby, Hodge Power, Charlie Daw, Jack Urquhart, B. Gibson, and the "baby" of the team, Bill Gray, who is still under thirty.

The members of the party, who enjoyed the programme throughout, journeyed back, to arrive in Melbourne on the morning of October 27th—a grand week.

A. F. McCONNELL, P.C.

War-Disabled Exhibition

"Dickie" Brett represented St. Dunstan's this year at the annual War-Disabled Exhibition and Sale of Work in London, and his work caused great interest among the many visitors, among whom were Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. Dickie is handless but he makes first-rate letter-racks and they had a quick sale.

Group Captain Douglas Bader, D.S.O., D.S.C., the famous airman who continued to fly after he had lost both legs, opened the Exhibition.

Double Celebration

Our old friend, George Fallowfield, moved to a new house earlier in the year and one of the highlights of the Deaf-Blind Reunion, as those who took part will well remember, was a surprise visit there.

The day chosen also happened to be Mrs. Fallowfield's birthday, and we have heard from a number of the guests who were there that George and his wife made it a grand joint celebration of her birthday and a wonderful "house-warmer."

One of the First?

In a recent letter, E. A. Steel, of Croydon, writes:

"Time goes on and it hardly seems possible that I have been a subscriber to the Braille Library since 1918, and I still enjoy reading Braille very much. It has always been a source of pleasure to me to be able to get the books, and this in spite of the Talking Book."

Young St. Dunstaners

Arthur Bell, of Birkenhead, has gained his A.M.I.Mech.E. after five years' hard work. His brother, Cedric, is Acting Second Engineer.

R. J. Vowles' little daughter, Leslie, has won the Bronze and Silver medals of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing, the medal for the highest aggregate of marks—Stage Junior—in the All England Sunshine Dancing Competitions, 1954, and first prize in the Tap-Dancing section at the Gosport Festival, 1954.

Marriages

On October 9th, Monica Durkin (Orpington) to Captain C. D. B. Lison. The Rev. Father P. G. Howell (late of St. Dunstan's), who married the bride's parents in 1920, officiated.

★ ★ ★

Hannah Mary Lund (West Hartlepool) to John Arthur Turnbull, R.N.

Personal

Our deep sympathy should have been extended last month to Mrs. McVey and her daughter in the death of our St. Dunstaner. Mrs. McVey writes: "He was wonderfully looked after and I would like it mentioned how good Matron and staff were to him."

Mrs. C. E. Porter asks us to correct the notice of her husband's death, which appeared in last month's REVIEW. He was 58, and his regiment was the 2-5th King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment (not the Liverpools, as our records show).

The sons and daughter of the late P. H. French, of Brighton, express their deepest thanks for the kindness and sympathy shown while he was in St. Dunstan's care.

Grandfathers

B. Lammiman, of Skegness; J. Butler, Co. Wexford (twin girls for Nancy); H. Pollitt, of Bolton; G. Power, of Filton, Bristol (for the fourth time); E. E. Bryer, of Yate, near

[continued overleaf]

“In Memory”

Private William John Burnett, 10th Devonshire Regt. and Labour Corps

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. J. Burnett, of Whipton, Exeter. He was 76. Coming to St. Dunstan's in January, 1918, he trained as a boot-repairer and mat-maker. He continued with this work for some time but ill-health eventually forced him to give up.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his two children, and to his grand-daughter and her family, with whom he had lived since his wife's death.

Gunner Percy Henry French, Royal Field Artillery

We have to record with deep regret the death of P. H. French, of Brighton, at the age of 77.

He came to St. Dunstan's in August, 1936, as a result of the delayed action of mustard gas. His health had been poor for many years, but he trained as a netter and he continued with this work up to a few years ago.

He was a widower and our deep sympathy is offered to his family and in particular to Mary, his daughter, who had looked after him.

Private Thomas Allen, 6th Yorkshire Regiment

We record with deep regret the death of T. Allen, of South Hetton, Co. Durham, at the age of 72. Enlisting in 1914, he was wounded on the Somme at the end of 1916, and came to St. Dunstan's early the following year. He trained in boot-repairing, mat-making, and netting. During the last few years, however, his health had deteriorated and for some months he had been seriously ill.

Among those present at the funeral were Mr. and Mrs. Carter, and Mr. and Mrs. Roach, St. Dunstaners living in Darlington.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow and family.

Private Wilton Holmes Bedford, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

We record with deep regret the death of W. H. Bedford, of Millhouses, Sheffield, known to his deaf-blind friends, and to many other St. Dunstaners, as “Deafy Bedford.” He was 54.

He enlisted in 1915 and was discharged in 1919 but did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1925, when he trained in boot-repairing and mat-making.

He had been a sick man for some time but nevertheless his death was unexpected.

At the funeral, Bugler Revitt, an old comrade of “Deafy's,” sounded the Last Post and Reveille.

Our very sincere sympathy goes out to his orphan daughter, Annabella.

Bristol (a third grandson); W. Nichols, of Colindale; H. Meckin, of Workington; Eileen, the step-daughter of J. H. Dalton, of Middlesbrough, has given birth to a son; T. ap Rhys, of Bangor (the first grand-son); H. Best, of Bournemouth; H. F. Southgate, of Chelsea; V. Wicken, of Wolverhampton; R. Humble, of Howdon-on-Tyne (for the seventh time); and J. W. Kerr, of Widnes (for the twenty-first time).

Birth

KIRKPATRICK.—On October 20th, to the wife of W. Kirkpatrick, of South Yardley, Birmingham, a daughter—Sharon Lucretia.

Marriage

TEMPLE.—On October 2nd, B. Temple, of Tonbridge.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

CHISHOLM.—To G. Chisholm, of New-castle-on-Tyne, who has recently lost his mother.

DODGSON.—To A. Dodgson, of Wimbledon, whose mother died on August 27th.

KIRKMAN.—To W. Kirkman, of Thorpe Bay, whose step-mother, who had lived with Mr. and Mrs. Kirkman for forty years, has recently died.

SMITH.—To C. H. Smith, of Bury St. Edmunds, who has suffered the loss of another sister.

SMITH.—To W. Smith, of Wanstead, who has sustained the grievous loss of his wife and son within a few days of each other. The funeral will be a double one. The son leaves a widow and family, who had lived with our St. Dunstaners. Our sympathy goes out to them all.

Mr. A. G. Brown

Those St. Dunstaners who were keen sportsmen in the early days will hear with regret of the death of Mr. Arthur Gordon Brown, who for years acted as a walking escort and took part in the first London to Brighton Walk in 1922, when he escorted Sammy Webster.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

WAR PENSIONS

ON December 1st, the Government's proposals for improvements in War Pensions and Allowances were announced. The main features that interest St. Dunstaners are the rise of 12s. 6d. in the basic rate, bringing it up to 67s. 6d. a week; the rise of 10s. in the Unemployability Supplement with a consequential rise for a married person who is unemployable of 3s. 6d. for his wife; and a rise varying from 2s. 6d. to 10s. in the Attendance Allowance. These improvements, taken in conjunction with others that were made in 1951, mean that a substantial rise has taken place in the Pensions and Allowances of St. Dunstaners as a whole, and especially of those who are, through old age or for other reasons, unemployable. I could have wished that the improvement had taken the form of a much larger rise in the basic rate alone, because this would have given more benefit to those St. Dunstaners who are employed, and also proportionately increased benefits to the partial pensioners.

These proposals, together with a welcome improvement for war widows and some minor changes, will cost fifteen million pounds a year, the largest single increment we have had in our history. I feel sure I was speaking for St. Dunstaners as a whole when I thanked the Minister of Pensions and National Insurance for his announcement, and Members of all parties in the House of Commons for their support.

I should like also to express the thanks of St. Dunstaners to the British Legion, its officers and officials with whom we have worked in the closest harmony, and to Mr. Askew, Mr. Banks and Mr. Rice, who have given us much help.

CHRISTMAS

On Christmas Day I shall have crossed the Equator and will be three or four days out at sea from Cape Town, for I am going to South Africa during the Parliamentary Recess to attend to my family business, returning by air for the opening of the House in January. Our ship will have left the Tropics behind and we shall be in that part of the South Atlantic where, in spite of it being mid-summer, you begin to feel the breeze blowing up from the South Pole, and an albatross which is about five to six feet from wing tip to wing tip hovers so low over the ship that the glint of its eye can be seen. On Christmas night, Lady Fraser and I will raise our glasses in a Toast to our absent friends, who will most particularly include St. Dunstaners and their families all the world over.

IAN FRASER.

In Memory of Sir Arthur

The annual Memorial Service to Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., the Founder of St. Dunstan's, was this year held on December 12th. It was attended by men staying at Ovingdean and West House and a number of St. Dunstaners living locally. The Service was conducted in the Chapel at Ovingdean by the Reverend Andrew Nugee (St. Dunstaner) and the Reverend W. Taylor (Padre to the Ovingdean and West House Homes) and the Lesson was read by Sir Neville Pearson, Bt. It was concluded with the singing of the hymn, "Abide with me," written by the Reverend H. Lyte, great-grandfather of Sir Arthur Pearson.

December 9th

On the morning of December 9th, the anniversary of Sir Arthur's death, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, together with St. Dunstaners Messrs. A. Carrick, N. Downs and S. Jones, with Mr. T. Watson, went to Sir Arthur's grave at Hampstead Cemetery to lay a wreath. "May he rest in peace, and may the work of St. Dunstan's prosper," said Sir Ian.

American News Letter

Mrs. V. M. Russell, of New York, who is a friend of Sir Neville Pearson's, has offered to prepare and braille from time to time a "News-Letter" for the interest of blinded soldiers in Great Britain.

The first Letter will arrive in the course of the next week or so and, in the meantime, we should like to have a list of St. Dunstaners in this country who would like to receive it. It will then be sent off to the first man on the list who, after he has read it, will forward it to the second man, and so on.

Golden Wedding

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Martin, of Wolverhampton, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on December 7th.

Ruby Weddings

We have just heard that Mr. and Mrs. J. Mitchell, of Edinburgh, celebrated their Ruby Wedding a year ago, and Mr. and Mrs. A. Chaffin, of Leighton Buzzard, celebrated theirs during the summer of this year. Mr. and Mrs. A. Lane, of Cardiff, had their anniversary on December 12th.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. T. Batt, of Oakhill, near Bath, December 23rd.

Calling All Campers A Camp Reunion Dance

A Camp Reunion Dance will be held on Friday, February 4th, from 7.30 to 11 p.m., at the Trevelyan Hall, Great Peter Street, off Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

As well as all campers, any St. Dunstaner and escort will be welcome.

Tickets: 3s. single; 5s. double, to be obtained beforehand. No tickets sold at the door.

Just a word about arrangements. The Dance is being organised by the St. Dunstan's Camp Committee. Padre Royle, M.C., of St. Matthew's, Westminster, was Padre to the first two St. Dunstan's Camps and he is letting us have his Church Hall.

Harry Ranger's Four-piece Band will play. This band plays for Hunt Balls in Surrey and for a lot of private dances.

The local Red Cross will do refreshments at cost price. There will also be a bar.

The Hall is very central—about four minutes' walk from Westminster Abbey (the West Door, where the queue formed to see the Abbey after the Coronation). Here we shall arrange for Red Cross guides to direct you to the Hall. There may be cars to drive you.

Tickets will not be sold at the door but can be obtained by writing to Miss P. Kingswell, 17 Airlie Gardens, Campden Hill, W.8, enclosing postal order, or from Miss Ibbetson or Mr. Willis, at St. Dunstan's Club, 191 Marylebone Road. Please get your tickets before January 20th as we must know numbers.

"World Christian Digest"

We referred recently to this new Braille magazine, and gave the subscription as 5s.

St. Dunstaners, in fact, can receive it free of charge, and they should notify Mr. Jones, of Men's Supplies, if they wish to do so.

Those who have already sent a subscription for the magazine should notify Mr. Jones, who will have the money refunded.

Brighton and District Club

Will all those desirous of taking part in the tournaments for the Sir Arthur Pearson competition please let me have their names not later than January 3rd, 1955. Those wishing to play bowls will be welcome at the King Alfred, Hove Front, any Tuesday morning between 10.30 and 12.30.

FRANK A. RHODES.

London Club Notes

On behalf of the London Club, may I wish all readers the old-time wish: A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. God bless you all.

S. WEBSTER.

Indoor Section

Results of the Sir Arthur Pearson Indoor Competitions:—

Cribbage.—Winner: R. Edwards; Runner-up, J. Fleming.

Dominoes.—Winner: J. Mudge; Runner-up: S. Lambert.

Darts (T.B.).—Winner: W. Lacey; Runner-up: S. Lambert.

Darts (S.S.).—Winner: W. Bishop; Runner-up: C. Walker.

Aggregate Whist.—Winner: G. Brown, 500 points.

C. J. WALKER.

Outdoor Section:—

On Saturday, November 20th, in Regent's Park, St. Dunstan's walkers again suffered defeat by the Metropolitan Police, though this time by a much reduced margin, in their six-mile walk.

Ten St. Dunstaners battled it out in a series of small bouts, both sides seeming evenly matched. The Police gained the initiative in several cases, and the result was another victory to them, 101 points to our 109.

In the St. Dunstan's sealed handicap, first prize went to Archie Brown; Pat Cryan was second and Les Dennis was third, Billy Miller being fastest loser. They were presented with their prizes in the Club by Miss Ibbetson.

W. MILLER.

Bridge Section

On Saturday, November 6th, our team won their match against the Blue Circle, and on November 13th we lost the return match against Mr. J. Callow's team.

On the week-end of November 20th—21st, we held our 7th Annual Bridge Congress, at Ovingdean; 46 members took part in this event. After a keenly contested competition, the winners of the Sir Arthur Pearson's Trophy Pairs Competition were F. Winter and C. Thompson, with a score of 127 points, the runners-up being J. Clare and Miss Simon, with 122 points. The winners of the Sir Arthur Pearson's Trophy Competition (teams of four) were Messrs. Brown, Fleming, Jackson and Cook. The second place was won by Messrs. Gover, Nuyens, Kirkbright and Armstrong, 3rd place being won by Messrs. Bulman, Caudle, Rhodes and Carpenter.

The winners of the Bridge Drive held on Saturday morning were: 1st, Kelk and Simmons; 2nd, Needham and Nicholas; 3rd, Clare and Miss Simon; 4th, Wiltshire and Douglas.

The Sunday morning Bridge Drive was won by Brown and Fleming; 2nd, Rhodes and Carpenter; 3rd, Wylie and Barlow; 4th, Miller and Crabtree.

After the presentation of the prizes by the Matron, D. Downs passed a vote of thanks to the Matron, Commandant, Mrs. McDonald and all the staff at Ovingdean, who made the Congress a very happy and enjoyable event. W. Bishop, in seconding the vote of thanks, also expressed the appreciation of all the players to Mr. A. Field and Mr. C. Stokes, who carried out the duties of tournament directors most efficiently, and also to the markers who did their task of scoring in the usual efficient manner.

The last friendly match of the year was against the Midland Bank, which we won by 4,010.

London Business Houses League.—Our team in this League won their second game against the G.P.O. on Friday, November 12th, by 12 match points. In their match against the Unicorn, on November 18th, they suffered their first defeat, losing by 9 match points. On November 26th, against the Iraq team, they won by the large margin of 47 match points.

W. BISHOP,

Captain-Secretary.

St. Dunstan's Six Mile Sealed Handicap and Match with Metropolitan Police, Nov. 20th, 1954

Order of Finish		Time	All. Scr.	H'cp. Time in H'cp.	Pos.
1.	W. Miller	St.D. 53:33			
2.	P.C. Burton	M.P. 54:07			
3.	P.C. Dillon	" 54:22			
4.	A. Brown	St.D. 54:25	1-45	52:40	1
5.	P. Cryan	" 54:46	2-05	52:41	2
6.	P.C. Liddle	M.P. 55:07			
7.	C. Williamson	St.D. 55:33	2-10	53:23	4
8.	P.C. Youldon	M.P. 57:16			
9.	P.C. Butt	" 57:30			
10.	T. Gaygan	St.D. 58:16	3-30	54:46	8
11.	L. Dennis	" 58:20	5-10	53:10	3
12.	P.C. Norman	M.P. 59:11			
13.	P.C. Place	" 59:20			
14.	P.C. Stevenson	" 59:23			
15.	P.C. Parson	" 59:37			
16.	C. Stafford	St.D. 59:39	5-45	53:54	6
17.	A. Bradley	" 60:23	5-40	54:43	7
18.	S. Tutton	" 60:50	4-45	56:05	9
19.	P.C. Burns	M.P. 61:38			
20.	D. Fleisig	St.D. 62:20	4-45	57:35	10

Winner of Handicap: A. Brown; 2nd, P. Cryan; 3rd, L. Dennis. Fastest Loser, W. Miller.
Result of Match: 1st, Metropolitan Police, 101 points.
2nd, St. Dunstan's, 109 points.
Timekeeper and Handicapper: Mr. W. J. Harris.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

May I be permitted space in the REVIEW to enlighten George (Chase me, Sister) Ellis as to why the men of the 1914 war appear to him to be in their second childhood? We have not forgotten that it was George who thought us mentally deficient because we called the V.A.D.s "Sister," though he was determined to remind us; but it is for precisely the same reason that we still like to hear somebody vamping on the piano in order that we can sing about "The long, long trail a-winding," as well as let the world know that we packed up our troubles in those old kit-bags. While we were retreating from Mons, or while we were staying put in the same line of trenches for four years; or when we pushed Jerry back and made him desire an Armistice, we had no nice Forces Sweethearts to croon to us over the wireless. We had no special Forces programmes to cheer those cheerless evenings, up to our waists in snow or water, and, incidentally, we had no nice A.T.S. girls or W.R.A.F. girls to share our miserable lot. Down in the dug-out where Jerry could not hear, or on the march, we sang as long as somebody started up, and the real "heroes" were the blokes who had the guts to carry that old violin or banjo or concertina, as well as the donkeyload of spare ammo. on top of kit.

So, when some hundreds of us were assembled at Regent's Park to learn trades we could only follow at home, we sang again, and while many are too self-conscious to indulge in single harmony at home, they are always ready when they can get together to let rip with the songs that broke Jerry's heart. I know, for a blind German sergeant-major P.O.W. in Manchester told me that we won the war because we would not take it seriously, and if the Jerries could have sung as we did instead of taking war as a sort of religious rite, there would never have been an armistice. I am sixty-six and I sing in my workshop, and I sing as I go along, and I don't give two hoots what people think. All I know is that folks say "Good morning, Jack, you sound happy," and it makes them happier too. Why do men of the Second World War regard us as unique and as having a complex because we do not pose? We had none of the amenities enjoyed by the Forces of World War Two. Nobody regarded us as heroes, but just as the modern version of

Kipling's "absent-minded beggars," who had become literal mud-larks. If George had seen the men coming home from the trenches smothered in blood and mud and lice, but the leave train full of singing Tommies, he would not be so damned sarcastic, and instead of cursing the parents of that anonymous pianist, he would have thanked God that he was of the Second War and that the men of the First had shown the way that made rehabilitation possible.
Castle Cary. Yours sincerely,

A. J. RADFORD.

DEAR EDITOR,

My forecast is that the "Mons and Marne Merchants" will be roused to counter-attack by the letter from George (Chase-me-Sister) Ellis, in the November issue of the REVIEW, and these "Merchants" will be joined by the men of the Somme, Ypres, Vimy, Beaumont-Hamel, Arras, Armentieres, and the rest against a "clenched-fist" attack which he attempts to disguise by "velvet-gloved" phrases.

As one who does not "offend" in this manner, I find difficulty in deciding the type of mentality of anyone who opposes the display of high spirits in this way, and, of course, there is a quiet lounge for anyone who wishes to escape these demonstrations.

Surely this provocative letter would never have appeared if the author had exercised his "enquiring mind" in the right and obvious direction. Has he, for instance, ever thought that the songs he refers to are reminiscent of the camp fire days, of route marches when feet were more nimble than they are to-day, of weeks and months spent in the stench of trenches and dug-outs half full of mud and water, of excursions "over the top," when the only armour was a tunic and a steel helmet; of the few days spent in the "rest billet," still within range of shell fire, and, above all, in the hours of battle when these very songs were still on the lips of many, only to be hushed by the fatal bullet, or the piece of shrapnel, or the full blast of a shell.

What memories they conjure up of courage, comradeship, tolerance, sacrifice, unselfishness, and all that is good in the hearts of "old pals."

I offer no excuse for this retaliation on my part, for I consider this letter to be impertinent and designed to create feelings in the minds of anyone who is not content to be an "average man." I also ignore all his efforts to camouflage the bitterness

which he displayed by "silently cursing the parents of the pianist" who encouraged the singing on that one occasion, when a quiet corner might not have been easy to locate in order to pursue the silent inquisitive trends which he so innocently disclosed to us in an earlier article on "Eavesdropping."

The answer to his question is so simple as to make the question appear ridiculous. Let me draw a simile. Is any footballer, cricketer, or any other team player any use as such without his team? Does a chorister normally satisfy himself fully as a singer outside the choir? In the same way, a St. Dunstaner "joins the team" when he meets numbers of his colleagues, and if he is inclined to singing or merriment, he can and will join in with them, but I would not say "at the slightest provocation."

The average St. Dunstaner should, and I believe does, retain his happy mood in his daily life at home, where he is usually well known because of his cheerfulness. Evidence that this is true is also found in the various St. Dunstan's Clubs, in the British Legion, and elsewhere.

Wherever there is communal living or gathering, there is a place for singing.

This tendency to sing and be merry, and to put on the bright side whilst at Ovingdean, is not a manifestation of second childhood as we are asked to believe. On the contrary, it is an outpouring of friendship which can only help to strengthen the good fellowship which so many of us are proud to share.

If the term "Peter Pan complex" describes these rather grand tendencies, then we would not wish to change it, since to grow older and yet to remain young is a quality to be envied.

Yours sincerely,

Ashton-in-Makerfield.

JIM SHAW.

DEAR EDITOR,

In reply to Mr. George Ellis's letter, may I put forward some observations on what has been called "the Peter Pan complex" in the 1914-1918 boys? I have been a St. Dunstaner for more than thirty-eight years, so am able to cast my mind back to the days before the First World War, when the causes originated.

In school we were taught to look upon all naval and military leaders and others who took part in historic battles as heroes. So we developed a strong National patriotism (a sense of emotion not encouraged to-day).

All explorers and colonists were heroes. On Empire Day the pupils were drawn up in orderly ranks on the playground, and as the Union Jack was run up we sang, "Lift High the Flag of England." Other patriotic songs followed, after which we were dismissed for the day.

At parties, members were called upon to provide entertainment by singing or playing a musical instrument—choruses were very popular. Ridicule might be directed against these memories. Much of the entertainment was so very amateurish but thoroughly enjoyable. I do not think a piano is any more outraged through being played by one's left elbow than at having to produce hot rhythm under the dexterous fingers of a skilled pianist. The vocalists sang in English—if they had a dialect they were not ashamed of it; they did not render a poor imitation of the American accent. The poorest singer's efforts were better than those of the best crooner. "Lusty voices" were mentioned—no doubt due to the fact that microphones and amplifiers are comparatively recent inventions.

Smoking while at work was forbidden. This was perhaps as well with low wages and cigarettes at 3d. for ten. Without cigarettes to impede them, errand boys and telegraph messengers whistled as they trundled around on their fixed wheel bikes. Gangs of workmen sang on their job.

The 1914 war was declared. National patriotism was easily stimulated by martial music, men volunteered in their thousands to serve in one of the fighting services. It was a great adventure. Even as raw recruits they were heroes, they were happy, they sang. Fresh on a route march they sang, stimulated by waving people, especially the girls. Returning from the march they sang to revitalise limbs which threatened to fold up. In those days of "spit and polish" returning from parade they would graphically describe drill sergeants and other n.c.o.s. Wielding a button stick or boot brushes in preparation for the next parade, they broke into whistling or singing—they just couldn't help it.

Except that it would make me a few years older, I regret I cannot claim the honour of being a "Mons or Marne Merchant." My next observations were made at St. Dunstan's. St. Dunstan's, that gigantic and daring experiment in training thousands of men under unfamiliar conditions in jobs and pastimes so different from those they

had known. Teaching them to read and write by, to them, new methods. The late Sir Arthur Pearson, our Founder, to whose memory no thanks or praise is too great, put his faith in us as founder members. He impressed upon us that we were ordinary human beings without sight. We worked at our studies and perhaps to convince ourselves as well as other people there was nothing in this "blindness racket," we sang more lustily and more often, and our practical jokes became more wild. With our Chief's example, with help and patient encouragement from everyone connected with St. Dunstan's, we made the grade. Gradually, without being aware of it, our boyish light-heartedness was no longer partly an act, but the spontaneous result of something achieved. It is obvious then that the 1914-18 boys will have the "Peter Pan" complex until they fade away—"Old soldiers never die." I hope the Old Contemptibles and the other professional soldiers will not think me presumptuous in linking the duration volunteers with them.

In reply to Mr. Ellis's final question, I must admit I have never met any of the Second World War St. Dunstaners—I purposely refrained from calling them "boys." I know of no reason why they should be called "a miserable lot," they will never have the "Peter Pan complex"; no doubt they show their light-heartedness in different ways. Yours sincerely,
Redcliffe, Bristol. W. CHAS. TAPLIN.

DEAR EDITOR,

Well, "Chase me, Sister, up a gum tree," what a weird idea. Our elder colleagues being criticised for high spirits and vocal community?

Of course, there is some allowance to be made for surprise and bewilderment at the 1914 men's ability to sing.

Is it because of the modern trend of musical effort, the weird dronings and sobbings of the popular groaners of the microphone? It is with great joy that I hear the men gathering around the old piano and with thunderings and bangings of keys, the voices raised in song. There is also the old idea, "Give me a man who can sing in the morning," when the mere thought of the joy of living means music and fun.

Then, again, is the inability of the younger generation to appreciate this joy due to the day's worries and strain, or (subtle thought),

are the younger men unable to see through the dark clouds to the silver lining, or unable to keep the home fires burning through lack of natural fuel?

For over thirty years there has been a long, long trail a-winding, and the old boys are keeping on to the end of the road.

I personally prefer the idea of "Let the people sing" to "Go on, baby, cry."

I cannot agree that the pianist plays with his elbow, but I do know one of the 1914 men who can and does play a melody with his nose. Funny, his name is George, too.

In the course of my mundane existence, I visit many clubs and organisations to help pass away a short while for some of the less fortunate folk than myself, and find, on considering the matter, the older folk always join in with far more joy and enthusiasm than the younger ones, so I guess it is just because they have learned the lesson of life, and so maybe, as George says, the young 'uns will perhaps grow into the same happy frame of mind. Then once more I am compelled to suggest that the songs of to-day do not lend themselves to such united efforts as the songs of yore. So, with a song in my heart, I go on my way, just the awkward in-between.

Sincerely yours,

Tottenham.

JOHN A. MUDGE.

DEAR EDITOR,

I have just read my November REVIEW and cannot wait to send you a note in reply to Charles Kelk. It will be short, but I would like him to know that I salute him, and in the same breath hand a bouquet to his wife. I am indeed happy to know that Charles has found the safe harbour of St. Dunstan's, and that there can now be no question of further cross-roads, coupled with doubt as to which is the one to take. Congratulations, Charles! and may you and yours have many years ahead in which to enjoy the well-deserved victory you have achieved over your handicap. At the first opportunity, I will slip in for a cup of tea, and we will have a laugh together on the way we both surmounted our difficulties, quite unaware of each other's existence in this little world of ours. Totally incapacitated? My foot!

Make my happiness complete, Charles, and say you are an Old Contemptible and can join our annual meet at Ovingdean. Good health and good luck!

Yours sincerely,

Portslade.

ALAN NICHOLS.

Christmas Competition

Here is a Competition for Christmas.

Below are a number of letter-groups. Can you sort them out and team them up to make the names of some clubs in the three Divisions of the Football League?

There will be three prizes of one guinea for the senders of the first correct solutions opened after the closing date, which is January 10th.

Address your entries to "Christmas Competition," St. Dunstan's Review, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1.

Happy hunting and a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year to St. Dunstaners everywhere.

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Manchester Club Notes

On October 19th, several of our members attended the Annual Party given by Mrs. Jackson, of Levenshulme, in memory of her son who was killed whilst serving with the R.A.F. At this party we were joined by members of BLESMA and a number of blind of the N.I.B. Our sincere thanks are accorded to Mrs. Jackson for her kind invitation and for an enjoyable party.

The Club headquarters at Red Cross House, Pendleton, are now freshly decorated, and all the rooms give an air of cleanliness and tidiness. In this atmosphere our annual competitions are well in hand and should be completed early in the New Year, when we propose to follow last year's successful procedure by having a Whist Drive along with the ladies and escorts to finish off the competitions.

Once again we also record our grateful thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hindle, of the Railway Hotel, Pleasington, and to the members of their Darts team for their kind invitation, which we honoured on November 26th.

Our party arrived in the late afternoon and the glowing fires and two tables

liberally stacked with wholesome food provided a real Lancashire welcome to counter the rain and cold wind experienced on the journey. When tea was finished, we seemed to have made only a small impression on the variety of freshly prepared foods, yet everyone had had a sufficiency as we adjourned for a brief respite whilst darts and dominoes were arranged. On completion of the games we achieved the rather gratifying results—Darts, five games to four against us; Dominoes, five games all.

Near the end of the evening, Sam Russell was called upon to present Mrs. Hindle with a shopping basket which Sam had made. Mrs. Hindle accepted it in a few well chosen words of thanks. The Club Chairman then expressed sincere thanks to our hosts, to all the ladies who had helped in providing the excellent food, to the captain and members of the Darts team; and to Bob Britton for his part in making this outing such a grand occasion—an outing which will be remembered for a long time.

May we take this opportunity to remind St. Dunstaners who live in the Manchester area, or within reasonable distance of Pendleton, that they are welcome to join us at the Club as members, and to take part in all the activities. We normally meet on the second and fourth Fridays in each month at 6.30 p.m., so come along and keep the bonds of fellowship securely sealed.

"MANCUNIAN."

Placement

Donald Stott, of Oxhey, as a capstan operator with the De Havilland Engine Company, Leavesden, Herts.

National Laying Test, 1954-55

Report for the First Period of four weeks,
October 12th—November 8th

				Score
				Value
1. G. Cooke	...	...	...	55
2. W. Webb	...	...	...	51
3. P. Holmes	...	...	...	36
4. J. A. Dix	...	...	...	28
5. W. A. Smith	...	...	...	24
6. P. Bagwell	...	...	...	13

Average number of eggs per bird, 6.31.

D. W. F.

Anchor Away

People seem to make a lot of fuss about "Four-minute miles" and doing the hundred yards sprint in less than ten seconds, but, after all, these athletic feats are done by youngsters who are in the pink of condition. Let me relate of a time about four years ago when seven or eight St. Dunstaners, ages ranging from thirty to fifty-odd, did a dash that must have been dazzling to the onlooker. Just picture for a moment a huge scaffold affair standing on the Downs near the Big House at Ovingdean. A very long rope runs from a massive concrete weight standing underneath the scaffold and through a pulley arrangement overhead. The idea was that this weight, which I can only assume was of concrete, weighed tons and tons, and had to be pulled as far from the ground as possible. The ten or twelve husky men who did this regularly were to form the tug-o'-war team representing Ovingdean at the annual sports. On the day we broke through the sound barrier I was one of the volunteers who might not have been so enthusiastic had he been able to see the weight which stood there like the Rock of Gibraltar.

Under the guidance of our coach, we grabbed the rope in approved fashion and each one of us put our twelve stone or more into the struggle. It took us hours to raise that weight, but raise it we did. I don't quite know what happened next. Three or four of the idiots at the front suddenly decided to have a smoke or something. The remainder, about eight of us, found ourselves streaking roughly in the direction of Brighton. I am quite sure we touched forty miles an hour, but of course, unlike Bannister and that crowd, we had no watches set for us.

GEORGE ELLIS.

Mrs. Wiggins

Hundreds of St. Dunstaners all over the country will hear with deep regret of the death of Mrs. Wiggins. For some twenty years, Mrs. Wiggins, at 87 Albany Street, looked after St. Dunstaners who had to stay short periods in London when our Headquarters and Administrative Offices were in Regent's Park. In 1945 she reluctantly retired owing to ill-health, but there will be many who will affectionately remember her and recall those pre-war days at "No. 87."

Talking Book Library

November Narratives

Two modern thrillers, one political and one war-time, and an old romance, add lustre to what has been a beastly month. Three titles and their significance appended: "The River Line," by Charles Morgan, reader Robin Holmes, is set in this country and portrays an American ex-airman visiting a British friend, fellow escapees from the Germans. The story that emerges from between them concerning the organised escape system through Belgium and France is packed with drama and suspense. *Cat. No. 901.*

"The Dying Ukrainian," by Patrick Howarth, reader Robert Dougal, reveals a far-reaching Communist network in this fair land of ours, which has to be traced and broken up by a most inoffensive professor who happens to speak Russian. This yarn has the dreamlike quality of the anarchy stories of the first decade of this century, plus that most important feature of any novel, an entertainment value above average. *Cat. No. 903.*

"Jade of Destiny," by Jeffrey Farnol, reader Arthur Bush, concerns the adventures and romance of a Captain Dinwiddie, notable soldier of fortune and a pure Don Quixote. The intrigue and excitement of the times of Elizabeth I preside refreshingly over this cloak-and-dagger romance. I confess I love this author's work dearly, but even so this is a pleasant and restful period piece. *Cat. No. 904.*

Three good ones—you choose!

"NELSON."

Young St. Dunstaners

At an exhibition of drawings and paintings arranged by the Art Group of Yeovil, Thomas Higgins (near Crewkerne) was awarded a third-class certificate.

★ ★ ★

Alan Brougham (Speke, Liverpool), has been awarded a certificate for Art, English and Woodwork, which was presented by the Lady Mayoress of Liverpool.

Marriage

We have only just heard of the marriage of Thompson Mitchell (Edinburgh), to Miss Nan Gilbray, on December 9th of last year.

On July 31st, William MacKay (Castletown) to Miss Nancy Lee.

Liverpool Club Christmas Party

Despite the Christmas shopping crowds we held our Christmas Party on Saturday, December 11th. From all parts of Merseyside flocked St. Dunstaners, their wives and escorts, friends and relations to make merry on this festive occasion. A coachload of our friends from Pleasington, Blackburn, included Mr. and Mrs. Bob Brittan, Mr. Hindle of Railway Hotel fame, and many notable personnel of the district. We were very sorry that some of our St. Dunstaner colleagues could not be with us, due to illness. However, they were in our thoughts and we wish them all a speedy recovery. Approximately eighty jolly revellers sat down to fill their "innards" with the delicacies of a splendid meal. Somewhat replenished and revived by the cup of tea, willing hands cleared the tables away for the action of Mr. J. Reason and his Concert friends. This brilliant and all-round entertainer never misses our Christmas Party and his supporting friends are all of exceptional talent.

Our President, Capt. Halloway, paid splendid tribute to Mr. Reason and his friends, and this was ably supported by our Secretary, T. Milner. The presentation of gifts to the children was made by our President's wife, Mrs. Halloway, with a smiling and cheery word for all. After some games for the children, in which the silence was not golden, the floor was cleared for the dancing session. We have all heard of modern style, old time, and ballet but, believe it or not, all these were left in the shade by our St. Dunstaners and their escorts. Spot waltzes were frequent and the lucky recipients were delighted they happened to be on the right spot. During a lull in the dancing, a surprise contest was staged for some of our Pleasington friends. It was amusing to hear and see their efforts as "Babies on the Bottle"; we hope all dislocated necks are now restored to normal. Reluctantly, though necessarily, all good things must end. Mr. Hindle, of the Railway Hotel, Pleasington, thanked our Club for inviting them to such a magnificent party, at the same time inviting our Club to Pleasington early in the New Year.

The Club Chairman, Mr. J. C. Owen, made a very suitable response, and with the joining of hands and singing of "Auld Lang Syne," the 1954 Liverpool Club Christmas Party came to a close.

Foul!

Before you eat on Christmas Day,
List to these words I have to say,
Related to me by a turkey,
Who'd seen deed done most foul and murky.
"Once," said he, "my life was sweet
With bags of corn and oats and wheat,
Bran and hay, with barleymeal,
Ten young wives with sex appeal,
But alas, they are no more,
They're dead and gone, my heart is sore.
The farmer's wife came round at dawn
Her feet sped fast across the lawn,
With gleaming knife above her head
She drove them into far-off shed.
Come with me, I'll show you why
I'm sick at heart and fit to cry."

I followed him to barnyard door,
I stood in feathers ankle deep,
Oh, stony heart, could I but weep,
Feet and heads surround the floor.
I sympathised, then stroked his nob,
I felt a sob within his gob,
"Look," said he, "There on that table,
My favourite girl friends, Pat and Mabel.
Those cruel folk, the ghoulis louts,
Have turned their poor old insides out.
They have no heads at all, poor things,
Their necks are drawn up 'neath their wings,
Their legs I gazed on with such pride
Without their feet, tied side by side.
Indeed it is a bitter pill
To see them there so cold and still."

I'd seen enough, I came outside,
The saddened turkey by my side,
Said I to him, "How were you able
To recognise your Pat and Mabel?"
"'Twas by the bruise on poor Pat's wing,
You saw it by that knot of string.
One day I got her by the scruff
In playful mood a bit too rough,
And Mabel there I recognise
By stalwart rump and girt big thighs."

"Now," said I, "let's have a word
With you, my cocky little bird,
Come, turkey, come now, tell me why,
Like them, you did not have to die."
"Oh yes," said he, "I'll tell you, mate,
Quite simple, I was under weight,
I saw the axe begin to drop
Upon my unprotected crop,
Then, 'ere the gleaming blade could fall,
I heard the farmer's daughter call.
'Don't kill it now, it's too absurd
To kill that poor old skinny bird.'
She knelt beside me on the ground,
Felt my body all around,
'Room for fattening here,' said she,
'We'll make our money yet on he,
Four bob a pound in shops they pay,
We'll have thee done another day,
So free him, let him scratch around
Until he reaches thirty pound.'"

So that's my tale, the turkey said,
For three more months I'll keep my head,
Then shall I be, like all my mates,
A browned-off carcass on your plates.
"Thou sha't not kill," you're telling me,
Just a roody mockery."

"GEN."

From All Quarters

"Pollie" Botha is playing a leading part in many sporting activities in South Africa as well as carrying on a successful private practice as a physiotherapist. He is President and Chairman of Germiston Sports Club, President of the General Purposes Committee, and Vice-President of the Baseball Club.

The ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW (South Africa), which gives us this news, also tells us that the Prayer Desk which the Rev. Michael Norman uses at St. Martin's Church was the gift of fellow St. Dunstaners when the Church was recently dedicated. A small silver plaque bears the inscription, "Presented by blinded comrades of St. Dunstan's."

Ron Smith, of Seaford, is now local representative for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, and has been giving many lectures both locally and at Newhaven. After Christmas he has a programme of lectures for schools. As a result, there is great local enthusiasm and interest in the movement.

We hear from Mrs. Hazeldene that the Alsatian, "Don of Lorrimore," owned by our late St. Dunstaner, H. Rawlinson, was "Best Alsatian on Show" at a Dog Show run by the Western Province Kennel Club. This was in spite of the fact that he has lost an eye through being pierced by a cactus.

The *Sevenoaks Chronicle* tells us that W. J. (Bill) Ritchie has just completed twenty-one years as Keeper of the Lamp of the Sevenoaks Branch of Toc H. He has been a member of the Branch since 1928. His record as a blood donor is twenty-eight transfusions since 1936. He also holds the British Red Cross Society ten-year medal.

Sympathy and congratulations go to Maureen Lees this month. Sympathy because she has been ill for a long time now and still must not take up active work again yet; the congratulations are upon a letter of hers which, although she did not intend it as a contribution, was broadcast, and was paid for! Incidentally, as a result of information given to him by Maureen of a discovery she made at Thetford Abbey in her A.T.S. days, the Curator of the City of Norwich Castle Museum has told her that her information is being recorded on

certain Ordnance Survey Maps so that it will be permanently available.

J. Goldthorpe, of Doncaster, was in the winning team in the Straight Dominoes Handicap run by the Blind School at Doncaster, and F. Hemsworth was the winner of the fives and threes event, so that St. Dunstan's was well represented.

H. Perkins, of Edgware, was mentioned in the *Mill Hill and District Times* as having the highest number of points for a well-kept allotment; he also won third prize for his show of vegetables.

George Shallcross, of Mouldsworth, is busy building a wall, laying crazy paving, and making a rockery and sunken beds. First he made a model, pasted on wood.

We were reminded, speaking recently of the many honours which have come to St. Dunstan's men, that William Bithell is a Freeman of the ancient City of Chester.

Two or three years ago, George Fallowfield received from Sir Winston Churchill two cigar boxes, to be used for the delicate cabins, etc., in the model boats which George so skilfully and beautifully makes. With some wood remaining, he patiently carved two collar studs, correct in size and shape, and sent them to Sir Winston for his 80th birthday. He has now received a reply from the Prime Minister congratulating and thanking him.

Grandfathers

T. Wood, Congleton (the seventh grandchild); H. A. T. Pearce, Leighton Buzzard (the second); R. Popple, of Llandebie; P. Sheridan, of Wishaw; H. C. Adams, of Rosehill, Oxford (second grandchild), A. Coleman, of Northampton (a second grandchild), W. Shurrock, of Chilton, Aylesbury (the twentieth); K. H. Palmer, of Leicester (a fourth grand-daughter). The little lady arrived with some publicity, for it was one of the cases recently reported in the Press where the father had been told that it was a boy.

The Way

For golden tongue, for magic sword,
For power men's minds to sway
And conquer worlds I ask not, Lord,
But just for grace each day
To live my life THY WAY. ALEC B. HILL.

Ovingdean Notes

It has been very apparent in the last few weeks just how fortunate St. Dunstan's has been in having so many good friends in this district. Recently we have had no less than three examples of wonderful hospitality extended to St. Dunstaners resident in the area, including those staying at Ovingdean or living at West House.

The first of these gatherings took place at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, on November 18th, when a dinner and dance was organised under the provision of the terms of the will of the late Mrs. M. Pittman. This was the sixth annual occasion on which a dinner and entertainment has been arranged and it has been noticeable that numbers attending have grown slightly each year, as the word got around!

On November 19th the employees of the Brighton, Hove and District and Southdown Bus Companies held their annual dinner for St. Dunstaners, at the "Black Lion," Patcham. Here the men were entertained to dinner and were later joined by wives and escorts for the dancing which followed. A great deal of hard work and much thought is obviously needed to make these occasions the success they undoubtedly are, and we are always most grateful to those Committee members who undertake the preliminary work.

The third event was on Wednesday, December 1st, when over 200 local St. Dunstaners (including some from Ovingdean and West House), together with wives and friends, had a most enjoyable evening, thanks to the generosity of the Brighton, Hove and District Grocers' Association. Their annual Christmas Party was held at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, and after a wonderful turkey dinner (plus all the usual trimmings) there was dancing to Percy Warden's Orchestra and Mary Orme and Stuart John entertained with songs. This was an occasion when Sir Ian had hoped to be present, but, by an unfortunate coincidence, the party was held on the same day as the House of Commons debate on the question of the provision of higher pensions and, of course, he felt in view of the campaign he had been supporting for many years for higher War Pensions, he should be in the Commons. Happily, Sir Neville Pearson was able to be present, and he expressed the warm thanks of all St. Dunstaners to the Grocers' Association for their interest in the organisation, and the

wonderful evening they had organised.

The main event to be held at Ovingdean since our last Notes were printed, has been the Bridge Week-end from 19th to 21st November, when no less than forty-seven St. Dunstaners took part.

The handsome Cup, suitably inscribed, in memory of Sir Arthur Pearson, which has been presented by Sgt. Alan Nichols, is now in position in the Lounge at Ovingdean. The Cup is to become the property of the last surviving "Old Contemptible" St. Dunstaner. We expect keen competition—as Sgt. Nichols is determined to make the presentation!! In response to enquiries, we regret to state that "monkey glands" are not dealt with under the National Health Service!!!

Christmas is rushing towards us now. The trainees go home on December 15th, and soon afterwards Ovingdean will be filled with the holidaymakers. The End of Term party and Christmas dinner for trainees was held on December 13th, with everyone in the best of spirits. We were delighted that Sir Neville and Lady Pearson who, as Commandant remarked at the dinner, must have been spending a great deal of time on British Railways on our behalf lately, were again ready to face the journey from London to join the party.

Commandant, Matron and all the Staff at Ovingdean and at West House wish to send all good wishes to St. Dunstaners all over the country. A very happy Christmas and New Year to everyone of you.

Barbara Cole

We feel sure that many ex-trainees from Church Stretton and the early days after the return to Ovingdean, will remember Barbara Cole (who later became Mrs. Alf Shepherd). Those of our readers who do recall her, will be deeply distressed to learn of her sudden illness towards the end of the summer, which resulted in her death last month, and they will wish to join with us in offering their sincere sympathy to her husband and family.

Barbara Cole came to St. Dunstan's first in December, 1944, and remained on the Staff until January, 1952. After leaving Ovingdean in 1947 she rejoined the Staff, this time to serve at Park Crescent, in January, 1952. She was married in September of the same year. Her sympathetic and friendly nature made her one of the most popular members of the staff.

“ In Memory ”

Private John Coleman, *Suffolk Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. Coleman, a permanent resident at West House. He was seventy-two.

He came to us in December, 1946, and trained in wool rugs, continuing with this work until he was admitted to West House in December, 1950. He left temporarily to stay with his sister at Bury St. Edmunds for a holiday and he died there on August 27th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his sister and step-daughter.

Private Edwin John Summers, *Labour Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of E. J. Summers, of Eastleigh, at the age of sixty-six.

Discharged from the Army in September, 1917, he came to St. Dunstan's in January of the following year, when he trained as a mat-maker. He continued with this work until the time of his death.

He had been in failing health, however, for some time, and he went to Ovingdean where he died on November 29th.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family, to whom our deep sympathy is offered.

Private Joseph Benjamin Hart, *Royal Derbyshire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. B. Hart, of Cardiff, at the age of sixty-three.

Enlisting in early 1916, he lost his sight as the result of an accident while serving in France. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1921 and trained in netting and mat-making.

During the last few years his health had given cause for anxiety and in October he entered hospital, where his condition rapidly deteriorated and he died on the 29th.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his daughter, Mrs. Willis, and to his family.

Private Thomas Eden, *Royal Marine Light Infantry*

We record with deep regret the death of Thomas Eden, of Richmond, Sheffield. He was fifty-five.

Coming to St. Dunstan's in 1925, he trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker. For the last few years his health had been poor and he had been going downhill for a considerable time.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Bradford, of Sheffield, attended the funeral.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his widow and family.

Private James Frederick Davey, *Royal Army Medical Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. F. Davey, of Swanage.

He saw service in the First World War and was discharged in October, 1917, but it was not until 1947 that he came to St. Dunstan's, when his age and the state of his health prevented any training. His health had been failing for some time, and he passed away on November 22nd.

He leaves a widow and grown-up daughter to whom our very sincere sympathy is extended.

Births

KIRKBY.—On November 2nd, to the wife of J. Kirkby, of Leamington Spa, a daughter.

MINTER.—On November 28th, to the wife of J. R. Minter, of Southall, a daughter—Ann Heather.

WHYTE.—On November 30th, to the wife of F. Whyte, of Gainsborough (late of Motherwell, Scotland, a son—Liam Andrew.

WINDLEY.—On November 17th, to the wife of H. Windley, of Hull, a daughter—Pauline Ann.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out this month to the following:

DAVIES.—To J. Davies, of Meols, Cheshire, in the loss of a much loved sister.

GOODLEY.—To H. Goodley, and Mrs. Goodley, of Pulham Market, near Diss, whose daughter-in-law died on November

14th, leaving three small children, the youngest being only three days old.

NEAL.—To W. H. Neal, of Bampton, whose brother, with whom he lived and who also had lost his sight, died on November 26th.

NEWMAN.—To G. Newman, of Cheriton, Folkestone, whose wife died in hospital on December 4th, after a long illness.

PAGE.—To R. Page, of Hove, who has lost his mother.

SALTERS.—To J. Salters, of Liverpool, who lost his mother on September 24th.

SIMMONS.—To J. Simmons (and Mrs. Simmons), of Ramsgate, whose mother-in-law, who lived with them, has died.

SMITH.—To D. W. Smith, of Tolladine, Worcestershire, whose mother has recently died.

WRIGLEY.—To W. Wrigley, of Droylesden, Manchester, whose father has died very suddenly. He had only recently retired.





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